

QTIP: Quality through Technology and Innovation in Pediatrics

Fifteen primary care pediatric practices across South Carolina will have the opportunity to join a pilot program to improve patient care through the use of clinical quality measures and health information technology. The program is funded through a \$9.2 million CHIPRA grant recently awarded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

The project has four key goals: **1. Quality:** demonstrate that newly-developed quality indicators can be successfully utilized in pediatric practices; **2. Technology:** share key clinical data through a statewide electronic quality improvement network; **3. Innovation:** develop a physician-led peer-to-peer quality improvement network; and **4. Pediatrics:** expand the use of pediatric medical homes to address mental health challenges of children in our state.

South Carolina is one of only 10 grantees selected to participate in this federal quality demonstration grant. The CHIPRA QI project represents a unique opportunity for pediatricians to help develop quality improvement tools that will lead to better health outcomes for current and future generations of patients.

The grant also provides generous incentives to participating practices. These include:

- \$18,000 annual stipends for each of the four years practices participate;
- Support to achieve at least a level 2 NCQA certification, which qualifies practices for enhanced reimbursements;
- Credit for Part IV of maintenance of certification credit, with no tuition charges;
- Assistance and resources to in meet the mental health needs of their patients;
- Free consultation and assistance to ensure existing health information systems (EMRs) are linked into the state quality improvement network.

The 15 pediatric practices selected to participate in the CHIPRA QI Project will be located in multiple regions of the state. Each practice must submit an application, a formal commitment from a senior leader (e.g. principal physician, medical director, executive) and will be required to participate for approximately 48 months.

To formally submit an application, please visit the Department of Health and Human's website: <http://training.scdhhs.gov/mc/?q=node/5> . Applications will be available through July 28, 2010.

For more information about participating in this project contact:

Francis E. Rushton, M.D.

Medical Director, South Carolina QTIP Project

rushton@scdhhs.gov

964 Ribaut Rd.

Beaufort, SC 29902

(843) 524-5437

QTIP is a partnership between the SC Department of Health and Human Services, the South Carolina Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the University of South Carolina, the SC Office of Research and Statistics, Care Evolution and Thomson Reuters