

Taconic **TALK**

From the Taconic IPA.
Exclusive physician network for **MVP**.

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Credentialing Committee
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meets quarterly on the third
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at **6:00 PM**

Medical Council Committee
Michael D. Freedman, M.D.
meets on the fourth Thursday
of the month at **6:30 PM**

Peer Review Committee
James Wise, M.D.
meets on the first Thursday
every other month at **6:00 PM**

TACONIC OFFICE INFO

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A. JOHN BLAIR, III, M.D. MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO



MSSNY Project

The Taconic IPA was recently awarded a \$1-million grant from the Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) to help small and medium-sized primary care practices implement electric health records (EHRs) from the HEAL 1 Project (see below). The program will help local physicians:

- Assess their workflow and equipment needs
- Purchase hardware and peripheral equipment for EHRs
- Acquire technical support for system configuration, installation, and testing.

Managed by the Taconic IPA and supported by a strategic partnership with the Taconic Health Information Network and Community Regional Health Information Organization (THINC RHIO), the program will be open to Internal Medicine, Family Practice, Pediatricians and Obstetrician-Gynecologists, on a first-come, first-serve basis. The Taconic IPA has already secured commitments from several practices and physicians.

For more information, please contact Ericka Salews at: **845/896-9301, ext. 3011**.

Pay-for-Performance/Medical Home Project

The Taconic Health Information Network and Communities Regional Health Information Organization (THINC RHIO) will oversee a Pay-for-Performance (P4P)/Medical Home project in New York's Hudson Valley. Eligible physicians will include Family Practice, Internal Medicine, and Pediatricians practicing in the Hudson Valley.

Enrollment will begin in 2008 and any eligible physician achieving NCQA Medical Home recognition will qualify for the project. We will enroll up to 300 physicians; however, due to the extensive effort and difficulty achieving PPC-MH recognition, we anticipate only 100-200 physicians receiving recognition.

Incentive payments will include two components:

- A structural component determined by the NCQA PPC-MH assessment tool
- An outcomes component based on process and outcomes measures derived from aggregated administrative data received from all health plans participating in the project.

Continued

Under the NYSDOH P4P grant, THINC RHIO can match health plans dollar-for-dollar to a total of \$1.5 million. Therefore, the maximum bonus amount for all providers receiving NCQA Medical Home recognition plus scoring well on the quality reports will be \$3 million. Each health plan will determine the performance thresholds, timing, and incentive distribution method for their providers. The first payments are anticipated in early 2009.

Interested physicians should call Asha Upadhyay at **845-896-4726 Ext. 3025**.

HEAL1 Project

HEAL1, one of several Healthy Hudson Valley projects under the direction of Taconic Health Information Network and Community Regional Health Information Organization (THINC RHIO), supports the adoption and use of electronic health record (EHR) systems by community health care providers. This \$5-million project was developed to improve the quality and efficiency of health care in New York's Hudson Valley. THINC RHIO is looking for physician practices to participate in this ground-breaking initiative.

Eligibility:

To be eligible practices must reside in New York's Hudson Valley.

Benefits:

Under the HEAL1 project, practices will receive the following:

A.) Software licenses for the award-winning e-Clinical Works (eCW) EHR system. This integrated one-system solution includes:

- Practice management (scheduling and billing)
- Electronic charting
- Electronic prescribing, with alerts to warn health care providers of adverse drug events and allergic reactions
- Prevention-oriented decision support (electronic alerts and reminders)

B.) Support Services include:

- IT coordination
- Practice consultation
- Local implementation and support
- Clinical workflow redesign
- Community connectivity

Costs:

- Approximately \$400 per month for ongoing maintenance and support of system software
- Computer and network hardware purchases in preparation for the EHR system implementation
- Conversion
- Broadband Internet access
- Time set aside for health care providers and office staff to attend eCW software training sessions
- Budgetary allowance for lower productivity and reduced scheduling during implementation

Next steps

Contact:

THINC RHIO Program Director Asha Upadhyay **845-896-4726 Ext. 3025**

Commit:

Practices must be fully committed when they sign on to the project. Those that meet all the deadlines will be given priority status.

Prepare:

Once a practice's subscription agreement is signed, the practice will be advised on hardware and network infrastructure requirements and how to get ready for implementation.

Implement:

Practices that are ready to implement will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Once it is verified that the practice has the correct hardware and network infrastructure to implement the system, practices can expect to have their EHR fully implemented within 14 to 16 weeks.

All three of these projects may be additive depending on your type of practice (size and specialty impacts each grant differently). Refer to eligibility criteria for each grant.

National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)

The Taconic IPA currently has 405 physicians who have become recognized through the NCQA Physician Recognition Program. We congratulate Dr. Anne Mullin who has achieved NCQA recognition since the last issue of the *Taconic Talk*, through Physician Practice Connections (PPC) – a component of NCQA's Physician Recognition Program.

PPC recognizes physician practices that use information systematically to enhance the quality of patient care. Meeting PPC standards means that practices have connections – to patients, information, other practitioners, and to evidence.



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