

Taconic **TALK**

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

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David R. Field, C.P.A.
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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



Grants for Electronic Health Records: Learn How your Practice can Benefit

Over the past several months, grants were secured to assist physicians with the cost of implementing Electronic Health Records in their practices. We encourage all Hudson Valley physicians to attend an information session about how these grants offset the costs in implementing EHRs in their practices.

In the upcoming months, these informational meetings will be held throughout the Hudson Valley. Additionally, we will hold on-line meetings (Webinars) where you can join the meeting from any computer with Internet access. A toll-free conference line will be provided for you to hear the meeting's audio portion.

Please see the following schedule of events and take a moment to register for one of them. We look forward to seeing you there.

Free Seminars

The Taconic IPA will also host seminars in Dutchess, Orange, and Westchester counties. All sessions will be from 7 to 9 p.m. as scheduled:

- Wednesday, **March 19** - MedAllies offices, Fishkill
- Tuesday, **March 25** - The Tarrytown Springhill Suites
- Wednesday, **March 26** - The Holiday Inn, Kingston
- Tuesday, **April 1** - Harness Racing Hall of Fame, Goshen

Free Webinars

Taconic IPA will host free on-line WebEx demonstrations of the eClinicalWorks Unified EMR/PM Solution and how these grants can assist you. All sessions will be from 1 to 3 and 5 to 7 p.m.

- Wednesdays - March 12, April 23, and May 7
- Thursdays - March 27 and May 22
- Tuesday - April 8

To register for any of the above events, contact Ericka Salews at 845-896-9301, ext. 3011.

Continued

Overview of Available Grants

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 seeking physician practices to participate in this groundbreaking 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 system software maintenance and support
- 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 meeting all the deadlines will receive priority status.

Prepare

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

Implement

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

MSSNY Project

The Taconic IPA (TIPA) 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 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, and
- Acquire technical support for system configuration, installation, and testing.

Managed by the TIPA and supported by a strategic partnership with the THINC RHIO, the program will be open to practitioners of internal medicine, family practice, pediatrics, and obstetrics-gynecology, on a first-come, first-serve basis. The TIPA has secured commitments from several practices and physicians. For details, 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 include those practicing family practice, internal medicine, and pediatrics in the Hudson Valley.

Enrollment has begun. Any eligible physician achieving NCQA Medical Home recognition will qualify for the

project. We will enroll up to 300 physicians, but considering the extensive effort and difficulty achieving PPC-MH recognition, we anticipate only 100 to 200 physicians receiving recognition.

Incentive payments 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 from all health plans participating in the project.

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.

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.

Interested physicians should call Asha Upadhyay **845-896-4726, ext. 3025**.



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