

## **Nation's First HIT Program Gets \$2 Million Seed Money**

The 2,300-member Taconic IPA has been designated the lead organization for a new national health information technology (HIT) program, designed to link healthcare facilities, doctors and other providers with a new electronic network within 10 years.

The Foundation for eHealth Initiative has selected nine communities to participate in the start-up. The group of communities will share \$2 million in start-up funding.

The Taconic IPA is based in Fishkill, N.Y. The program is known as Taconic Health Information Network and Community (THINC).

Other participating organizations include: Benedictine Hospital, Kingston Hospital, LabCorp, MVP Healthcare and Vassar Brothers Medical Center.

The major program goal for now is to improve connectivity, reduce medical errors and create more efficient healthcare for patients in their own communities. This part of the program is known as Connecting Communities for Better Health (CCBH).

### ***Why Taconic Is Important***

The Taconic IPA, said HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson, was selected to lead the program because it has historically successfully broken the organization-centric mentality of competing groups within the healthcare community.

Taconic IPA is also actively educating physicians in the community about the capability of information systems.

They point out that this will result in physicians investing in systems that will benefit their practices and benefit the community by improving safety and quality and decreasing costs.

Through the THINC project, competing doctors, hospitals, laboratories, pharmacies, payers, employers, insurers and consumers will come together to exchange information.

For more information on the Foundation for eHealth Information, call (202) 424-3270 or visit <http://ccbh.ehealthinitiative.org>. For more information on Taconic IPA, visit [www.Taconic.ipa.com](http://www.Taconic.ipa.com).

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