PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

LOUISIANA HEALTH CARE QUALITY FORUM PARTNERS IN NATIONAL HEALTH IT WEEK

BATON ROUGE, LA – (Sept. 11, 2014) – To mark the important role health information technology (IT) plays in improving health care delivery in Louisiana, the Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum is partnering with hundreds of organizations across the U.S. to celebrate National Health Information Technology (NHIT) Week, Sept. 15-19, 2014, with the theme: One Voice, One Vision: Transforming Health and Care.

The Quality Forum, a private, not-for-profit organization, has worked since 2007 to improve health care delivery and health outcomes for the residents of Louisiana through advancements in health information technology (IT). It serves as the State-Designated Entity for the support of health care providers and critical access/rural hospitals in the adoption and meaningful use of electronic health records (EHRs). In addition, the Quality Forum leads the implementation of the Louisiana Health Information Exchange (LaHIE), a secure, confidential network through which authorized health care providers and organizations can electronically access and share health-related information for the purpose of improving patient safety, quality of care and health outcomes.

To date, more than 2,000 health care providers across 37 specialties in Louisiana have utilized the resources available through the Quality Forum to adopt EHRs. More than 200 health care providers, hospitals, school-based health centers, home health agencies and other health care companies are enrolled to participate in LaHIE. Currently, LaHIE features more than 890,000 unique patient records and more than one million total patient records and processes more than 57 million transactions per month.

“Health information technology improves the quality of health care delivery, increases patient safety, decreases medical errors and strengthens the interaction between patients and health care providers. Our participation in National Health IT Week highlights our organization’s commitment to ensure that this technology is integrated and interoperable to provide the best patient outcomes,” said Cindy Munn, Quality Forum CEO. “By working together, we can use health IT to bring improvements to Louisiana’s health care system for the residents of our state.”

For additional information about National Health IT Week, visit www.healthitweek.org. For more information about the Quality Forum, please visit www.lhcqf.org.

About the Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum
The Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum is a private, not-for-profit organization, dedicated to advancing evidence-based, collaborative initiatives to improve the health of Louisiana residents. Its focus areas include quality measurement and...
analytics, clinical quality improvement, the patient-centered medical home/care coordination model, outreach/education, the Louisiana Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment (LaPOST) and health information technology (IT). With regard to health IT, the Quality Forum is the State-Designated Entity to support health care providers and critical access/rural hospitals as they adopt and meaningfully use electronic health records and to lead the planning and implementation of the state’s health information exchange. For more information, visit www.lhcqf.org.

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