



LOUISIANA  
HEALTH CARE  
QUALITY FORUM

**MEDIA CONTACT**

*Linda Morgan, Marketing/Communications Director*

225 300 4824 (office) • 504 473 6861 (cell)

[lmorgan@lhcf.org](mailto:lmorgan@lhcf.org)

**For Immediate Release**

**Parish Internal Medicine Associates Successfully Attests  
To Meaningful Use of Electronic Health Records**

Baton Rouge, LA – Sept. 16, 2011 – The Louisiana Health Information Technology (LHIT) Resource Center announced that Parish Internal Medicine Associates of Destrehan, La., became the first practice working with the Resource Center to attest to meaningful use of electronic health records (EHRs) and qualify for federal funds through the Medicare EHR Incentive Program.

“We’re very proud of Parish Internal Medicine Associates for meeting meaningful use criteria and completing the attestation process,” commented Nadine Robin, Program Manager for the LHIT Resource Center, which serves as the Regional Extension Center for Louisiana. “The LHIT Resource Center team is committed to providing education, outreach and technical support to physicians and hospitals as they adopt and meaningfully use EHRs to improve the quality and value of health care for Louisiana residents,” she added.

Since launching the practice in 2004, Kiran Chava, MD, has been mindful of physicians’ concerns about implementation and use of a certified EHR system. “I began the conversion from paper to EHRs in anticipation that this was the direction clinical practices were heading. The implementation began with one to three patients a day. This gave me the time and support that I needed from my staff to make the transition, and I’ve already seen my practice become more efficient,” said Dr. Chava.

“Working with the LHIT Resource Center team was unbelievably valuable for us. My office manager and the Resource Center specialist worked together with our SuccessEHS representative so that we could successfully achieve meaningful use. What we did in an afternoon probably would’ve taken several weeks for us to do alone,” Dr. Chava explained.

-more-

"Dr. Chava and his staff at Parish Internal Medicine have demonstrated their continued commitment to providing high quality care for patients by successfully attesting to Medicare for Meaningful Use, said Tina Graham, Chief Operations Officer for SuccessEHS. "We are honored to partner with them, as well as with the LHIT Resource Center, and will continue to support their efforts as Meaningful Use programs evolve."

"On behalf of the Quality Forum, I'd like to congratulate Dr. Chava and his office staff for reaching this milestone," said Brenda Ikerd, Director of Health Information Technology. "This achievement is a direct result of their hard work and dedication to providing higher quality and safer care for their patients."

The LHIT Resource Center, administered by the Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum, is one of 62 regional extension centers in the country established through the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act. The HITECH ACT authorized the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to provide reimbursement incentives to physicians and hospitals who demonstrate meaningful use of certified EHR technology. Medicare incentives can provide up to \$44,000 per provider over five years, and Medicaid incentives up to \$63,750 per provider over six years.

Services provided by the LHIT Resource Center include EHR vendor selection, project management, practice and workflow redesign and meaningful use achievement. For more information about LHIT Resource Center support as well as the benefits of EHRs for providers, patients and the medical community, please visit [www.lhcqf.org](http://www.lhcqf.org) or e-mail [rec@lhcqf.org](mailto:rec@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 citizens. Its main areas of focus include quality measurement, clinical quality improvement, the patient-centered medical home, outreach/education and health information technology. The Quality Forum serves as the State-Designed Entity to lead the planning and implementation of health information technology grants contained in the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act/American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.