



LOUISIANA  
HEALTH CARE  
QUALITY FORUM

## PRESS RELEASE

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### For Immediate Release

#### CARENCRO PHYSICIAN ATTESTS TO MEANINGFUL USE FOR MEDICAID

**BATON ROUGE, LA** – (July 23, 2012) – Michael P. Kennedy, MD, a family practitioner with a practice in Carencro, La., has attested to Meaningful Use for Medicaid.

The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act established a number of programs to improve health care quality, safety and efficiency through the promotion of health information technology, including electronic health records (EHR) and private and secure electronic health information exchange.

Under HITECH, eligible health care professionals and hospitals can qualify for Medicare and Medicaid incentives by adopting certified EHR technology and using it to achieve MU. Kennedy's office met those standards in late 2011 using advanced medical software and the services of a strong team of vendors, as well as the support provided by the Louisiana Health Information Technology (LHIT) Resource Center.

LHIT Project Coordinator Diете Dobroski said, "They accomplished a lot in a short period of time. It was a combination of good, user-friendly software and perseverance on the parts of Laurie Barake and Dr. Kennedy."

According to Kennedy's office manager Laurie Barake, the process was a challenging one due to the many changes in the medical field, but was made simpler through the step-by-step process provided by the LHIT Resource Center.

"Along with saving lives, we can now save time and money, too," Barake added.

In Louisiana, the LHIT Resource Center is working with more than 1,200 health care providers and 20 critical access/rural hospitals as they adopt and meaningfully use electronic health records. LaHIE is the mechanism that allows authorized providers and organizations to electronically access and share health-related information through a secure and confidential network to improve patient safety, quality of care and health outcomes. For more information about these initiatives, contact [info@lhcf.org](mailto:info@lhcf.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 and health information technology IT). With regard to health IT, the 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](http://www.lhcqf.org).

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