



Critical access and rural hospitals along with physicians/providers can often face significant challenges transitioning from a paper-based system to electronic health records (EHRs).

At CentrEast Regional Extension Center, we understand these challenges, and are here to help.

Who is CentrEast Regional Extension Center?

The Trusted Advisor

- Continues the over 85 year tradition at The Texas A&M System by expanding extension services to include healthcare
- Now partnered with the Dwight Look College of Engineering and the Mays Business School to move health care hospitals and providers forward as health care information technology is adopted
- An independent, non-profit organization, providing technical assistance, guidance, and information on best practices to support and accelerate providers' and health care facilities' efforts to become meaningful users of certified EHR technology
- Made up of a team of experienced,, certified health information technology (HIT) professionals with intimate knowledge of the **Central and East Texas** medical community
- Offers hospitals and health care providers a combination of national insight and local expertise on the impact of EHRs in medical practice
- Part of a national network of 62 regional extension centers with direct, rapid and reliable access to a pipeline of key information on health IT and meaningful EHR use

CentrEast Regional Extension Center (REC) is one of a select group of organizations throughout the U.S. designated as having the experience and capacity necessary to assist health care providers with the task of modernizing their practices with certified EHRs. We have been selected by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) for Health Information Technology to serve providers, critical access and rural hospitals in Central and East Texas.

For the providers and health care facilities who do not currently have an EHR system, CentrEast REC will provide guidance and advice as you choose and implement one in your facility. For those who already have a system, we can help them meet the criteria for incentive payments from Medicare or Medicaid for the meaningful use of EHRs.

What Do We Offer? Hospital/ Provider support throughout the EHR Implementation Process.

CentrEast REC is a support and resource center making the implementation or upgrade of EHRs easier for providers throughout the process. Ultimately, our aim is to help increase quality of care for patients, overall productivity, and improve the quality of work/life balance for you by helping providers and facilities achieve meaningful use of EHR systems.

For a minimal membership cost, we offer participating providers and facilities a wide range of valuable services. Some of our core service areas include:

- Assistance with EHR implementation and project management
- Meaningful use advice and guidance
- HIT education and training
- Vendor selection & financial consultation
- Facility/workflow redesign
- Privacy and security
- Partnering with state and national health information exchange (HIE)
- Ongoing technical assistance
- Other fee-based services are available above core REC services

Why Participate? The Time is NOW!

Our priority is helping critical access/ rural hospitals and providers, to understand and take advantage of the full benefits of EHR incentives and guidelines. We recommend certified solutions that will enable hospital facilities and health care providers to:

- Improve patient safety and quality of care while reducing costs associated with medical errors, duplicate tests, along with improving efficiency of information exchange
- Easily navigate the EHR vendor marketplace by having supported access to recommended certified systems
- Use EHRs in a meaningful way so that patient information is available when and where it is needed, and care is coordinated across provider teams
- Achieve EHR meaningful use objectives from the very beginning, maximizing incentives and minimizing financial and administrative burdens associated with implementing new electronic systems
- Prepare and position themselves for future pay for performance programs

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Visit us online at centreastrec.org