

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
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**National Speakers to Update Health Professionals on Health Information
Technology and Privacy and Security**

BISMARCK, N.D. – “*Health Information Exchange and Privacy and Security*” is the topic for the North Dakota Health Information Technology Conference on Nov. 9-10, 2010, at the Best Western Seven Seas Hotel & Waterpark in Mandan, N.D.

“This conference will clarify privacy and security issues related to the exchange of health information and provide participants with an update on recent health information exchange and technology activities both statewide and nationally,” said Nancy R. Willis, State Medicaid Health Information Technology Coordinator for the N.D. Department of Human Services.

The two-day conference will include national speakers Mark Levine, MD, chief medical officer for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for Region 8, Denver; Dave Wanser, PhD, executive director, National Data Infrastructure Improvement Consortium (NDIIC), Austin, Texas and Beth DeLair, JD, RN, president, DeLair Consulting LLC, Madison, Wis.

Educational sessions will feature topics such as the Electronic Health Record (EHR) Provider Incentive Payment Program and the reporting of quality outcomes, North Dakota statutes governing the privacy of health information and electronic signature, and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) regulations and consent as they relate to patient records. Information also will be shared on North Dakota’s recent health information exchange activities; on Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota’s MediQHome program, how providers can apply for Medicaid EHR Provider Incentive Payments, about services available through the ND/MN Regional Extension Assistance Center for Health Information Technology, and about Health Information Technology education available through Lake Region Community College.

Other conference highlights include a presentation on what constitutes an electronic health record, a luncheon, and break-out sessions exploring real-life health information technology privacy and security scenarios.

The conference is a joint effort involving the N.D. Department of Human Services’ Information Technology Services Division, Medical Services Division (Medicaid), the ND Information Technology Department’s Office of Health Information Technology, and the ND/MN Regional Extension Assistance Center for HIT (REACH). It is funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) for Health Information Technology.

The conference is geared toward healthcare professionals in all settings, but anyone is welcome, and Willis said more than 200 individuals are expected to attend. Pre-registration is required in order to provide a meal count for the luncheon. The cost to attend the conference is \$75.

For more information and to register for the conference go to <http://www.healthit.nd.gov/>

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