

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services and
North Dakota Information Technology Department
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 18, 2011

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**ND e-Health Summit to Update Health Professionals on Health Information
Technology, Privacy, and Security**

BISMARCK, N.D. – Protecting private healthcare information is the focus of the second annual North Dakota e-Health Summit on Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2011, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck.

“The summit will provide participants with information about cutting edge electronic information tools that will help facilitate high quality patient care while maintaining privacy and security of patient protected health information,” said Sheldon Wolf, State Health Information Technology director for the North Dakota Information Technology Department.

The morning keynote speaker, Lee Stevens, program manager, State Health Information Exchange Program, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Baltimore, MD, will highlight emerging national health information technology. Deven McGraw, director, Health Privacy Project, Center of Democracy and Technology, Washington, D.C., will lead an afternoon discussion on privacy and security in health information exchanges.

Other educational sessions include lessons learned in transitioning from paper health records to electronic health records from three North Dakota healthcare facilities, an update on North Dakota’s Health Information Technology (HIT), care coordination and the role of medical homes in reporting clinical quality measures and improvement of patient care, and other HIT-related quality activities.

“As the federal government encourages healthcare providers to move toward electronic health records, it is important for North Dakotans to learn how healthcare providers in our state are preparing to support these efforts,” said Nancy Willis, State Medicaid Health Information Technology Coordinator for the North Dakota Department of Human Services.

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

The summit is geared toward healthcare professionals in all settings, but anyone is welcome. Willis said more than 200 individuals are expected to attend.

Pre-registration is required to get an accurate count for the luncheon and sessions. The cost to attend the conference is \$75. For more information and to register for the event, go online to www.healthit.nd.gov.

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