NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services and North Dakota Information Technology Department
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ND e-Health Summit to Update Health Professionals on Health Information Technology

BISMARCK, N.D. – Staying ahead of the ever changing world of health information technology is the focus of the third annual State of North Dakota/North Dakota Chapter of the HealthCare Information Management Systems Society (ND-HIMSS) e-Health Summit on Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2012, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck. A social and vendor exhibit sponsored by members of the ND-HIMSS kicks off the conference on Monday, Nov. 26, at 6:30 p.m.

"The summit will provide participants with information about cutting edge electronic information tools helping facilitate high quality patient care," said Sheldon Wolf, State Health Information Technology director for the N.D. Information Technology Department.

The morning keynote speaker, John Halamka, MD, is the chief information officer for Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston and a member of the Office of the National Coordinator of Health Information Technology Standards Committee. He will give a videoconference presentation on health information technology efforts across the country. Dr. Paul Kleeberg, clinical director of the North Dakota/Minnesota Regional Extension Assistance Center for Health Information Technology, will discuss electronic health record implementation for rural and other providers.

Other educational sessions include a panel discussion on lessons learned in implementing electronic health records and working toward reporting of quality measures to meet meaningful use requirements from two North Dakota health care facilities; an update on North Dakota's Health Information Technology (HIT) activities; using electronic health records in the behavioral health setting; e-prescribing and the prescription monitoring program; and other HIT-related information.

"The move toward the use of electronic health records by health care providers is an important one for North Dakotans," says Nancy R. Willis, deputy director for the N.D. Department of Human Services' Information Technology Services for Medicaid Claims Operations and Health Information Technology. "For patients it means having their important medical information available quickly and in a secure manner, no matter where they seek care. For doctors and other health care professionals, it means having information they need to care for patients at their fingertips even if they are seeing a patient for the first time."

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. Department of Information Technology - State Health IT office, and the North Dakota/Minnesota 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, and the N.D. Chapter of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society.

The summit is geared toward health care professionals in all settings, but anyone is welcome. Willis said about 100 individuals and two vendors, Optum and Capsa Solutions, 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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