



For Immediate Release

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**QUALITY PARTNERS OF RHODE ISLAND ANNOUNCES
FIRST GROUP OF EHR CERTIFICATION RECIPIENTS**

*Group Collaborates with RI Governor's Workforce Board and Health IT Certification
to Award 17 "Certified Professional in Electronic Health Records" Designations*

Providence, RI (August 3, 2010) –Quality Partners of Rhode Island, a nationally recognized leader in health care quality improvement, today announced 17 new recipients of the Certified Professional in Electronic Health Records (CPEHR) designation, which were achieved after completing an intensive training program and passing a written examination. The 17 recipients come from across the state and are made up of doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals. The limited space training already has a waiting list for its next session.

"The CPEHR training was a valuable experience for me as a physician, but it especially benefits my patients," said Dr. Laurie Reeder, MD, a thoracic surgeon with a practice in East Greenwich and an affiliation with Kent County Hospital in Warwick, who participated in the program and earned the CPEHR designation. "Today's EHR technology is focused on the core business of health care: providing information and decision support for clinicians at the point of care. That I'm now better versed in these technologies is invaluable."

The CPEHR designation confirms that the holder has mastered the common body of knowledge covering planning, implementation, and operation of electronic health records (EHR) for knowledge management, quality improvement, patient safety, and care coordination. Holding the CPEHR designation enhances a medical practice's ability to qualify for increased incentives associated with meaningful use, patient-centered medical home programs and other quality improvement initiatives.

"A forward-thinking group of doctors, nurses and health care managers dedicated three days away from patient care to invest in an intensive training session that will allow them to elevate care of their patients over the long-term," said John Keimig, CEO, Quality Partners of Rhode Island. "These certifications are an important investment for Rhode Island because of the magnitude of the technological transformation taking place in health care recordkeeping, which impacts all stakeholders."

The CPEHR designation was earned during a three-day training session that was held June 23-25, 2010 at Quality Partners of Rhode Island's Promenade Street headquarters in Providence. The training was conducted by Health IT Certification, the only recognized certifying body for

Electronic Health Records. In addition, the training also earned the participating doctors up to 17.50 elective credits by the American Academy of Family Physicians.

To provide assistance with the cost of the training, Quality Partners of Rhode Island received funding from the Governor's Workforce Board to offer EHR training to physician office staff.

"This important program was funded because the Governor's Workforce Board recognizes that many physician offices are in the process of obtaining the necessary infrastructure to transition to electronic health records, which will improve overall health care in Rhode Island and across the country," said Lisa D'Agostino, acting executive director of the Governor's Workforce Board RI. "Our support came about as the result of a critical need for physician offices to become educated and proficient in work flow, data management, and care management utilizing information technology."

A separate training program collaboration recently announced between Quality Partners' Health Information Technology (HIT) group and the New England Institute of Technology will provide Rhode Island with a significantly expanded pipeline of workers trained in EHR and prepared to earn their CPEHR designation. An announcement on when that program will start accepting students should be made in the near future.

About Quality Partners of Rhode Island

Quality Partners is a non-profit health care quality improvement agency providing consulting, research and education services. With a staff of over thirty physicians, nurses, educators, analysts and other professionals, QPRI partners with national and local government agencies, foundations, insurers, health care providers, stakeholders and educational institutions on quality improvement initiatives. Learn more at www.qualitypartnersri.org.

About the Governor's Workforce Board

The Governor's Workforce Board RI supports strategies to improve the existing skill base of the Rhode Island workforce and to anticipate the future needs of growing and emerging businesses. Since its inception, the Governor's Workforce Board has made more than \$37 million worth of strategic investments in Rhode Island that reward collaboration among the state's employment, education and economic development entities. Learn more at www.rihric.com.

About Health IT Certification

Health IT Certification provides professional training and certification for those responsible for planning, selecting, implementing, and managing electronic health records (EHR) and other health information technology (HIT) and those engaged in the creation and management of Health Information Exchanges (CPHIEs). Learn more at www.healthitcertification.com.