



# EHR BULLETIN

**SEPTEMBER 5, 2008**

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The Electronic Health Record (EHR) project continues to move forward and go well. As you probably know, both the NEQCA Board and the Tufts Medical Center Board gave final approval to the project. eClinicalWorks (eCW) was chosen after a comprehensive evaluation and negotiation process. Tufts Medical Center approved funding of \$7 Million for community practice implementation in addition to committing funds for the hospital ambulatory care environment. We would like to take this opportunity to update you on the status of the project:

- We are on schedule and anticipate that the (eCW) contract will be signed by the end of September 2008.
- We are finalizing the selection of NEQCA Community practices that will be participating in the pilot implementation group. The purpose of the pilot is to “work-out” and validate major components of the EHR Project such as:
  - the overall implementation process that we have been planning with eCW, and
  - the process we have designed to support your practices during the implementation and after go-live.We will begin the pilot with a small group of practices so that we can take any lessons learned from the Pilot, modify the implementation plan, if necessary, and then begin the network-wide rollout of the remaining practices.
- At the October 7, 2008 NEQCA Fall Forum, eCW representatives will be available to perform both Practice Management and EHR demos of the product, and also answer any questions that you might have. Practices will also be able to sign up for a practice site assessment at the Fall Forum. This is the first step in the pre-implementation process and the data gathered from this assessment will be used to determine what pieces of your existing hardware can be used, and which hardware will need to be purchased or leased.
- Once the eCW contract is signed, we will schedule eCW demonstrations at each of the Pods where you will be able to ask any questions about functionality and/or the overall implementation process.

It is quite common to find yourself “in the weeds” with a project of this size and scope, but before we go there, it will be important to remember why we are doing this and what strategic imperatives this is designed to address. Probably one of the most significant decisions was that both NEQCA and Tufts Medical Center decided to work with a single vendor across the network. Having a single EHR solution:

- Will significantly improve communication among providers across the network
- Will allow NEQCA as a network to be competitive in the market place by providing leading edge technology plans and solutions to NEQCA membership
- Will allow individual practices to leverage the knowledge of the network through lessons learned, improved workflow, and the ability to take advantage of templates and other customizations that are created centrally or by other physicians
- Will allow physicians to have the benefit of the Tufts Medical Center subsidy towards implementation services and support
- Will allow individual practices to benefit from the size of the network when NEQCA negotiates hardware pricing, hardware vendor services pricing, and EHR pricing on behalf of the providers
- Will allow the NEQCA practices to benefit from centralized support at NEQCA with an EHR Team that is involved in both the EHR implementations in the practices as well as what issues and needs are common across the network.

All of this will enable us to use this valuable tool more effectively to improve the quality of care we deliver to our patients. We have been making significant progress through the recent planning and are continuing to develop the overall implementation process so that the EHR implementation is successful and provides the maximum benefit for the NEQCA providers. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Reed or Paul Quigley at 781.356.3336.