



**THE QUANTUM GROUP**

healthcare solutions for a new generation <sup>SM</sup>

## *In the News.....IT Healthcare*

February 15, 2011

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) continues to support the US healthcare system transformation into a paperless electronic system with additional capital, this time to local health departments. This is will be a material investment and supports that billions of US dollars committed toward this transformation. We continue to see great opportunity for companies like ours that have entered this space with a strong portfolio of patent pending intellectual property. We continue to focus on the use of the technology by data collection and mining to affect future healthcare.

### **HHS To Allot \$750M for Disease Prevention, IT Infrastructure**

**HHS has just announced** that it will make \$750 million in federal funds available for disease prevention efforts, including data collection initiatives and IT infrastructure projects at local health departments.<sup>1</sup> The money, which is in addition to \$500 million that HHS allocated last year, will come from the Prevention and Public Health Fund created by the federal health reform law.

Specific projects include \$137 million to bolster public health infrastructure by helping state and local health departments invest in new technology and staff training, and \$133 million to collect and present data on the effects of the health reform law.<sup>2</sup>

In addition:

- \$298 million will go for community prevention, local health and wellness promotion, improving nutrition, reducing tobacco use and increasing physical activity; and
- \$182 million will be put toward improving access to preventive care.

HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said, "This investment is going to build on the prevention work already under way to help make sure that we are working effectively across the federal government, as well as with private groups and state and local governments to help Americans live longer, healthier lives."<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *HealthLeaders Media* reports (Clark, *HealthLeaders Media*, 2/10)

<sup>2</sup> Zigmund, *Modern Healthcare*, 2/9

<sup>3</sup> *HealthLeaders Media*, 2/10



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**Even Canada is getting in on the use of EMR with this report that “most parents prefer electronic forms over paper forms.”**

### **Study: Parents Prefer Electronic Health Forms Over Paper-Based Ones**

Most parents prefer electronic forms over paper forms when filling out medical information about their children, according to a study published in the *Journal of Medical Internet Research*.<sup>4</sup>

#### **Study Details**

For the study, researchers at Children's Hospital Boston and Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto followed 180 parents of children who were being treated for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in the Boston area.<sup>5</sup> Parents were asked to fill out traditional paper forms and electronic forms that asked about their child's behavior, prescription medications and side effects to medication. Although the two types of forms covered the same content, the electronic applications included:

- A multimedia component;
- An option to select medications from a list;
- Defined steps; and
- Feedback.<sup>6</sup>

#### **Findings**

According to the study, parents generally reported feeling less burdened when filling out the electronic forms, compared with the paper forms. Parents also said that the electronic forms were easier to complete and that they would be more likely to fill out such forms in the future.<sup>7</sup>

Stephen Porter, lead author of the study and head of emergency medicine at the Toronto hospital, said the findings have important implications for efforts to design personal health record for pediatric chronic conditions.<sup>8</sup>

Read more: <http://www.ihealthbeat.org/articles/2011/2/9/study-parents-prefer-electronic-health-forms-over-paperbased-ones.aspx#ixzz1E2vKiYpb>

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<sup>4</sup> Canadian Press/Winnipeg Free Press reports (Canadian Press/Winnipeg Free Press, 2/7)

<sup>5</sup> Abma, Postmedia News/Calgary Herald, 2/7

<sup>6</sup> Canadian Press/Winnipeg Free Press, 2/7

<sup>7</sup> Postmedia News/Calgary Herald, 2/7

<sup>8</sup> Canadian Press/Winnipeg Free Press, 2/7