



**THE QUANTUM GROUP**

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

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

February 1, 2011

We believe that in a more advanced healthcare information system, a customer/patient/user will be able to have unprecedented personalization and access. The Quantum Group's technology platform, PWeR<sup>®</sup> is currently customizable and accessible by smart phones like Apple's iPhone as well as iPad.

### **Report Says Health IT Has Potential To Advance Personalized Medicine**

Health IT could be a driving force for advances in personalized medicine that provide targeted treatments, [according to a new report](#) from the Center for Technology Innovation at the Brookings Institution, *Healthcare IT News* reports.

The study -- titled "Enabling Personalized Medicine Through Health IT" -- outlines policy and operational changes that would improve information analysis, connectivity and integration in the health care sector.

Darrell West, author of the report and founding director of the Center for Technology Innovation, said adopting and using health IT systems could help facilitate treatments that are tailored to individual patients (Monegain, *Healthcare IT News*, 1/28).

The report stated that CMS should invest funding from the federal health reform law for "innovation" pilot projects and that NIH could fund new projects to identify obstacles to widespread adoption of personalized medicine.

According to West, more study is needed into how to balance the privacy of patient data with researchers' access to that information (Daly, *Modern Healthcare*, 1/28).

Additional funding continues to go into Health Information Technology from the USD \$27 billion the US government intends to spend to get providers, hospitals and systems to adopt EMR.



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## **ONC Announces \$80M in Additional Funds for Health IT Programs**

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) recently announced \$80 million in additional funding for community college workforce programs, regional extension centers and state health information exchanges *Government Health IT* reports.

ONC launched the programs last year as part of its efforts to help healthcare providers achieve meaningful use of electronic health records. Under the 2009 federal economic stimulus package, health care providers who demonstrate meaningful use of certified EHRs will qualify for Medicare and Medicaid incentive payments.

The latest ONC funding includes:

- \$32 million in second-year funding for community colleges that have developed programs to train health IT specialists to provide support for RECs and physician offices (Mosquera, *Government Health IT*, 1/27);
- \$32 million in additional funding to help RECs accelerate their efforts to encourage health care providers to register for the EHR incentive program (Conn, *Modern Healthcare*, 1/28); and
- \$16 million in challenge grants to 10 state health information exchanges to encourage the development of innovations that could support nationwide health information exchange and interoperability (*Government Health IT*, 1/27).