

April 12, 2011

Dear Oregon Health Care Professional:

In February of 2009, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, often referred to as ARRA or the stimulus package. This legislation created an incentive fund to assist eligible health care providers in adopting electronic health record (EHR) systems. Practices that adopt and meaningfully use an EHR can receive as much as \$63,750, *per eligible provider*.

This is grant funding that comes directly to you that can build your practice and our state's health care infrastructure. I'm sure that you'll understand why as the Director of the Oregon Health Authority and a physician, I want to make sure that these dollars are used to benefit Oregonians. This is an unprecedented opportunity for you to receive federal grant dollars. This is not a loan – it is a grant and there is no repayment what-so-ever.

There are many details involved in determining the extent of each health care provider's eligibility and efforts have been made to remove barriers so Oregon providers can access these dollars. The State of Oregon wants each and every eligible provider to receive the maximum dollar amount possible.

The first step is to find out if you are an eligible provider. There's an easy-to-use online tool to find out if you're eligible, and if so, for which program – Medicare or Medicaid. Find out if you're eligible by going to:

www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/15_Eligibility.asp.

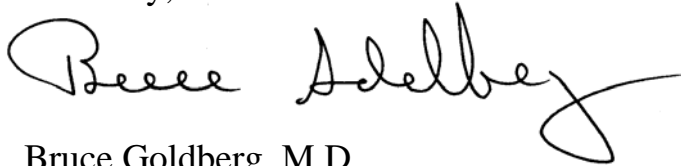
Regardless of which program you may be eligible for, one of the best ways to ensure you receive the maximum amount is to utilize the services of the Oregon's Health Information Technology Extension Center (O-HITEC). O-HITEC is partially funded by the same ARRA legislation that funds the incentive payments and they are mandated to provide expert guidance, education and technical assistance to advance the meaningful use of an EHR.

Oregon is fortunate to have these services available to our providers and I hope that you will take advantage of O-HITEC's expertise.

Even if you've installed your EHR, are proficient in its use, and are confident you'll meet the Meaningful Use requirements and qualify for incentives – I'd encourage you to sign up for O-HITEC because for each provider who signs up, O-HITEC receives additional funding that helps to support primary care providers and rural hospitals in their EHR efforts.

Please join the State of Oregon, and our nation, as we work to fully realize the benefits of health information technology.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Goldberg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the "y" of "Goldberg".

Bruce Goldberg, M.D.
Director

**For additional information please contact O-HITEC at 503.943.2617 or info@ohitec.org