



Spring 2007

## *Quality Initiatives in Hawaii and P4P*

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Research is demonstrating that improvements of chronic disease states like asthma, diabetes, heart disease and hyperlipidemia results in lower costs of delivering care to patients. Essential to these efforts is data capturing and analysis through Electronic Health Record Systems. CMS has begun capturing data from pilot sites utilizing EHRs on these disease states and has reported improvements in the quality of care provided to patients. The results of these efforts have convinced many payers of the benefit of providing funding for EHR solutions for physicians.

On December 15, 2006, TeamPraxis and HMSA announced a partnership to provide Hawaii's providers with more affordable EHR solutions. TeamPraxis is one of the vendors to have met all the rigorous guidelines for funding on behalf of its physicians. As the only local vendor with bi-directional PM and EHR interfaces, formulary integration, and CCHIT certifications and strong customer references TeamPraxis is leveraging technology to provide its physicians with new administrative and clinical efficiencies. As a physician vested organization TeamPraxis provides the services, technology and support for the TouchWorks system and HMSA provides funding to assist with the costs of the software and implementation. The results have been tremendous with our physicians pointing to improved patient care as the biggest benefit to their practice and patients.

To incent the use of EHRs and quality care initiatives Medicare launched several pilot P4P programs in 2005. In July 2007, the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) from CMS will be accepting quality reporting data from any provider capable of sending the necessary information. The benefit to the providers is a 1.5% Medicare Bonus Payment. HMSA is piloting a similar program utilizing the same measurements as CMS. The key component to these key performance measures is electronic data capture, analysis and reporting back to the physicians via dashboard reports.