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MICHIGAN CENTER FOR  
EFFECTIVE IT ADOPTION

## Lenawee County Clinic First M-CEITA Practice to Achieve Meaningful Use

*Tecumseh, Michigan practice adopts electronic health record and qualifies for meaningful use incentive payments*

Health Specialists of Lenawee P.C. in Tecumseh, Michigan, is the first practice receiving assistance from M-CEITA to have successfully attested to the meaningful use of a certified electronic health record (EHR), making them eligible to receive incentive payments for adopting EHR technology. M-CEITA (the Michigan Center for Effective IT Adoption), is designated by the federal government to help Michigan health care providers become meaningful users of certified EHRs.

“I congratulate Health Specialists for being a leader in using health information technology to improve patient care and for being one of the first practices in the state to reach meaningful use,” said Dan Armijo, M-CEITA Director.

As a certified rural health clinic, Health Specialists provides vital primary care health services to 40,000 patients in Lenawee County. While the practice was already an advanced EHR user, M-CEITA was able to educate the office on meaningful use, provide an analysis of staff workflows, and help to select appropriate meaningful use measures. M-CEITA also was able to coordinate with the EHR vendor to help the practice make software upgrades to ensure that they were accurately recording all meaningful use measures within the EHR.

According to Health Specialists of Lenawee CEO Doris Goodlock, M-CEITA’s services were crucial to getting the office prepared to attest to meaningful use. “When we first decided to go for meaningful use, I thought we were ready. But there were so many little roadblocks and issues. Nothing major, but just things we wouldn’t have known how to figure out without an expert.”

M-CEITA EHR implementation specialist Laura Haeberle, who worked the practice, described it as a team effort. According to Haeberle, “Working with Health Specialists of Lenawee was a pleasure. Their take charge attitude partnered with the M-CEITA Meaningful Use approach and



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tools proved to be a great success. I am really excited to be able to make a difference for providers and their patients.”

The practice began their 90-day attestation period in April. Three of the practice’s physicians attested on July 18 and two additional physicians attested on August 5, making them eligible to receive EHR incentive payments, amounting to \$90,000 in the first year alone. The sixth physician attested to meeting the requirements for Medicaid incentives soon after.

Despite the welcome addition of incentive payments, though, Goodlock stressed it is really about their patients. “EHRs just make everything more efficient, which in turn makes it easier to provide good care.”

The Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs were formed under the Health Information Technology Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act, which is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Under the programs, Medicare and Medicaid incentive payments are available to eligible professionals when they adopt, implement, upgrade, or demonstrate the meaningful use of certified electronic health record systems. The payments, made through the federal Medicare and Medicaid programs, mean that physicians and other eligible professionals can qualify for as much as \$44,000 through Medicare or \$63,750 through Medicaid.

In addition to creating the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs, the HITECH Act also developed the regional extension centers. M-CEITA was founded in 2010 under the HITECH Act when the federal government awarded Altarum Institute a \$19 Million grant to establish the REC for Michigan. M-CEITA is also funded by a \$1 Million dollar grant from the Kresge Foundation. M-CEITA is dedicated to helping providers navigate the complex Electronic Health Record marketplace by providing neutral, unbiased information and support.

For more information, contact M-CEITA by phone at 1-888-MICH-EHR or by email at [mceita.info@altarum.org](mailto:mceita.info@altarum.org).