

# New HITECH Resource for Eligible Providers and Hospitals at the Virtual Extension Center

*Note: I get great pleasure in finding resources for my readers, and today I have a showstopper! Carol Flagg is co-owner of HITECH Answers and is visiting Manage My Practice to announce a free resource for eligible providers and hospitals.*

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For the past two years [HITECH Answers](#) has been a vendor neutral resource for education on details of the HITECH Act. In that time, we've amassed a significant library of recorded webinars for viewing, along with a body of exclusive white papers and research.

But the time for analyzing the HITECH Act has ended. Similar to the purpose served by the 62 Regional Extension Centers (RECs) , our goal is to support as much as we can the process of adoption of a certified EHR system that meets meaningful use criteria. Given the sheer number of health care providers needing significant help and guidance through this process, we have transitioned our existing web-based subscription model to function as a **Virtual Extension Center**.

This Virtual Extension Center, or VEC, supports health care providers and hospitals looking for education and analysis throughout the HITECH life cycle in a 100% virtual environment. In a nutshell, our VEC widens the education circle and opportunity for all Eligible Professionals and Eligible Hospitals. We've also made membership to our VEC **completely free for EPs and EHs** for the entire life cycle of

the HITECH Act.

## **So what, exactly, is the VEC? And how does it function?**

First and foremost, this newly created VEC houses all of the existing recorded training material and research accumulated over the past two years. This information is readily accessible upon members logging on to HITECH Answers. Here's what has been added to round out VEC membership:

- Meaningful Use for EPs and EHs "" Live webinar events hosted twice a month that focus specifically on the details for achieving Stage 1 meaningful use for EPs and EHs.
- Upcoming live web casts on tax implications for incentives for EPs and EHs, workflow, ICD-10 migration, HIPAA security assessment, the pros and cons of SaaS, EHR contract negotiation and more.
- Live web cast for our VEC members who are vendors and HIT consultants that address pressing topics and needs in conducting business in this industry.
- Attendance to live webcast interviews and presentations from leading national experts.
- Access to exclusive white papers and research found only in our VEC.
- Direct access to independent experts to help answers your specific questions.

An obvious large part of the VEC will be our **live events**. We debut our event offerings with these two important topics "" *Meaningful Use for Specialists* and *EHR Contract Negotiations*.

### **Meaningful Use for Specialists "" Qualifying for CMS EHR Incentives**

**January 18, 2011, 7 pm EST**

**Event summary:** A first glance at the Stage 1 Core and Menu Set objectives makes sense for primary care, but what about specialists? How can Psychiatrists, Oncologists, Radiologists, Urologists, and other specialists meet the requirements and objectives outlined in CMS EHR Incentive Program? EPs that are specialists can still achieve the CMS incentives based on the flexibility that is incorporated into two primary areas: Menu Exclusions and Quality Measures.

**EHR Contract Negotiations: Q & A with William O'Toole, O'Toole Law Group**

**January 25, 2011, 7 pm EST**

**Event summary:** The HITECH Act of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 is driving new technology acquisitions unlike anything seen in the healthcare information technology (HIT) sector since Y2K. Specific terms and warranties in Electronic Health Record (EHR) agreements are absolutely essential for the protection of provider customers. Competent and experienced legal advice is extremely important. Get your questions answered in this special Q & A session.



You can visit our [Events Page](#) to learn more about these sessions.

And you can learn more about qualifying for a free membership at [Become A Member](#) or you can contact me at: [carol@hitechanswers.com](mailto:carol@hitechanswers.com).

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**Disclosure from Mary Pat: HITECH Answers sells my book on their site, and I am a Consulting Expert to HITECH Answers.**