



First row (seated): Tom Lee, CEO/Founder, SA Ignite; Roger Holloway, Co-Director, IL-HITREC; Dr. Steven Bush, President, FVWCHP. Standing (from left): Michael Buza, CFO, FVWCHP; Dr. Margaret Lozovatsky, Clinical Implementation Specialist, SA Ignite; Bill Killackey, IL-HITREC; Lisa Wilson, RN BSN, Pediatric Clinical Coordinator, FVWCHP; Diane Waszak, FPNP; Ben Ellis, VP, Corporate Development, SA Ignite; Katie Fetzer, FVWCHP; Amanda Piekarski, FVWCHP; Shelly Sinatra APN, FVWCHP; Kathy Foley, RN BS, Director of Clinical Services OBGYN, FVWCHP; Tim Hansen, VP, Application Development, SA Ignite; Beth Houck, VP, Practice Solutions, SA Ignite.

Fox Valley Practice Successfully Attests to Meaningful Use of EHRs

Practice works with IL-HITREC and SA Ignite to Secure Meaningful Use

The Illinois Health Information Technology Regional Extension Center (IL-HITREC), along with its service partner SA Ignite, Inc., celebrated the successful attestation milestone reached Jan. 23, by Fox Valley Women and Children's Health Partners, in St. Charles.

The Fox Valley practice successfully attested to receive Medicare's Meaningful Use of Electronic Health Records (EHR) Stage 1 incentive payment. It was the first practice in the nation to use SA Ignite's MU Assistant™ cloud-based solution to electronically file its attestation to CMS.

"We could not have done this on our own. IL-HITREC and SA Ignite were extremely effective in providing the guidance we needed to achieve qualification for meaningful use measurements," said Dr. Steven Bush, MD, President of Fox Valley Women and Children's Health Partners.

"We needed a technology solution to help guide us through the labyrinth of the CMS Meaningful Use achievement and attestation process," said Dr. Bush. "Our EHR was working well, but we needed something to help us over that last hurdle of documenting and attesting to our usage. IL-HITREC partnered us with SA Ignite and its MU Assistant provided the support we needed.

"The system tracked our clinicians' daily usage, aggregated the information and provided analysis that helped us predict future compliance and incorporate needed changes to CMS regulations. The time and labor saving value provided by the system's e-filing of our attestation documents cannot be over-stated," said Dr. Bush added.

IL-HITREC is one of 64 Regional Extension Centers in the U.S designated by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC). The HIT Regional Extension Centers were established as part of the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act; Title IV in Division B of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Signed into law by President Obama Feb. 17, 2009, the HITECH Act authorizes the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to provide a reimbursement incentive for physician and hospital providers who demonstrate the meaningful use of an EHR.

The ARRA stimulus package includes financial incentives for healthcare providers who achieve meaningful use with an EHR. Medicare incentives can provide up to \$44,000 per provider over five years, and Medicaid incentives up to \$63,750 per provider over six years.

"This is a significant milestone achievement for us," said Roger Holloway, Co-Director of IL-HITREC. "Our

vision was to provide a system that would save significant time and improve efficiencies for our providers on their path to meeting meaningful use criteria. The MU Assistant has fulfilled that vision.”

“IL-HITREC congratulates Dr. Bush and his team. As one of the nation’s Regional Extension Centers, our mission is to guide priority primary care physicians to use an electronic health record system in a meaningful way. This will improve the quality and efficiency of patient care in Illinois,” added John L. Lewis, Co-Director of IL-HITREC.

After Dr. Bush “pushed the electronic button” to successfully attest on Jan. 23, he acknowledged his staff, IL-HITREC and SA Ignite representatives during a celebratory lunch in the offices of Fox Valley Women and Children’s Health Partners.

During the program, SA Ignite founder, Tom Lee, called the software “the TurboTax® equivalent for achieving Meaningful Use and attestation.”

The MU Assistant helps providers navigate the currently manual and time-intensive step of translating EHR vendor MU reports into the CMS attestation web-site. Once workflows have been redesigned and providers are live on an EHR, the SA Ignite software helps automatically aggregate and monitor MU measures across the EHR and provides analysis of where usage gaps are occurring.

After the gaps have been filled, the system helps providers select 90-day windows (for those attesting in their first payment year) and automatically matches their MU data 1:1 with attestation forms. The MU Assistant then electronically files the data to the Medicare attestation website, providing a one-click attestation process.

“The time-saving element was my favorite feature of the system,” said Kathy Foley, Fox Valley Women and Children’s Health Partner’s Director of Clinical Services, OBGYN. “It is my responsibility to sift through the mountains of data to make sure the doctors are doing everything they need to become compliant with the MU criteria. The system relieved us of this onerous burden.”

To attest to meaningful use, eligible physicians must report numerator, denominator, and exclusion results, if applicable, for the meaningful use objectives and attest that they have successfully met the requirements of the program. Once eligible physicians have successfully completed an online submission through the CMS attestation system, they can qualify for either Medicare or Medicaid EHR incentive payments.

Dr. Bush speaks at HIMSS Annual Conference

Dr. Bush has been asked by Greenway Prime Suite EHR to be on a panel discussion called “EHR Adoption Community of Practice” on Feb. 23 at the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) conference in Las Vegas, NV. Among other topics, he will speak about the assistance his practice has received from IL-HITREC and SA Ignite in successfully achieving attestation.

Dr. Bush also will address the following questions about his practice’s experience with EHR: Location, size (number of MDs, nurses, other clinicians), IT environment; vendor selected; time from start to go-live; two best aspects of experience; two areas for improvement or would do differently (and why).

FVWCHP uses Greenway Prime Suite EHR. Roger Holloway plans to attend the HIMSS conference and will be in the audience during Dr. Bush’s panel discussion.

About IL-HITREC

IL-HITREC is a collaboration of several healthcare and educational organizations focused on providing education, outreach and technical assistance to priority primary care providers within Illinois, outside the City of Chicago. It is working to improve the quality and value of care physicians provide by attaining meaningful use of electronic health records. IL-HITREC is headquartered at Northern Illinois University and has satellite delivery offices in DeKalb, Chicago, Peoria and Sauget. For more information, visit www.ilhitrec.org.

About SA Ignite

SA Ignite, Inc., builds innovative healthcare IT software products that enable unprecedented improvements in EHR usage. It is a provider of software solutions that streamline and automate the “last mile” of reaching Meaningful Use (MU). The company’s inspiration lies in removing complexity for users and automating workflow that is currently manual. Now serving more than 3,000 providers, SA Ignite’s products layer on top of any EHR system. SA Ignite believes improving EHR usage can advance healthcare by simultaneously improving quality of care and lowering costs. Visit www.saignite.com.

About Fox Valley Women’s and Children’s Health Partners

Since 1999, Fox Valley Women and Children’s Health Partners (FVWCHP) has offered state-of-the-art women’s and children’s health care provided by highly-qualified physicians who are dedicated to patient care. FVWCHP has a team of 16 board-certified physicians committed to delivering medical excellence to patients. Physicians are backed by a compassionate team of nurse practitioners, nurses, medical assistants, ultrasound technicians and administrative staff working together to provide the best patient experiences possible. Visit www.fvwchp.com.