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February 12, 2010

Dear Primary Care Provider,

Kansas Foundation for Medical Care, Inc (KFMC) is the Kansas Regional Center! The Regional Center activities will lay the ground work toward a statewide implementation of Health Information Exchange (HIE). The advantages to your practice and your patients are obvious. Communication between all the various providers involved in the care of a patient will eliminate redundancy and errors in the system. It has also been shown that there may be an advantage with workflow efficiency in the care of patients. As we transition nationally to an Electronic Health Record (EHR) one of the foundational steps to be taken at a local level is the development of a statewide HIE.

Today, the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology within the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services announced the first cooperative agreement awards authorized by the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act. KFMC, located in Topeka was one of 32 organizations named as a Regional Center (RC) included in today's announcement. KFMC's work as the RC for Kansas will be done in collaboration with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, its eHealth Advisory Council, and the Council membership, Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved, and additional healthcare partners to maximize the services and reach of the Kansas RC program to meet the National Coordinator's goals.

The Kansas RC program will have something to offer all providers regardless of where they are in their Health Information Technology (HIT) journey. Practices may be in the very early stages of investigation, or be preparing for Go Live, or have an implemented EHR. The Kansas RC will offer direct technical assistance, guidance and information to support and accelerate health care providers' efforts to become meaningful users of Electronic Health Records (EHR). KFMC will focus most intensively on the physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners who work as part of individual and small group primary care practices, as well as those who provide care to the medically underserved, underinsured, and uninsured.

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Eligible professionals who successfully demonstrate meaningful use of EHR/HIE will receive incentive payments of up to \$44,000 from Medicare or \$63,750 from Medicaid beginning in 2011. If you are interested in participating in this program and contracting with KFMC for Regional Center services please complete a nonbinding expression of interest form or email RCsupport@kfmc.org to request more information. If you have questions regarding this initiative, please feel free to contact Donna Garwood at KFMC at 785-271-4118.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry W. Pitman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "P".

Larry W. Pitman, MPA
President & CEO
Kansas Foundation for Medical Care, Inc.