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planned parenthood receives nearly \$500,000 from the GRHF

Grant will be used to implement electronic health records.

Planned Parenthood of the Rochester and Syracuse Region (PPRSR) has been awarded up to \$465,133 by Greater Rochester Health Foundation (GRHF) to implement an Electronic Practice Management/ Electronic Health Records (EHR) network. The system will enable PPRSRSR to improve the quality of patient care by providing reliable real-time access to health information at six Planned Parenthood affiliates in Upstate New York.



"The ability to track a patient through medical records is a key part of delivering high-quality health care. Being able to thoroughly review a patient's medical history allows us to better understand her or his reproductive health needs. Through the confidential Electronic Health Records (EHR) system, we will have an easily accessible overview of a patient's history that includes results from preventive cancer screenings and tests for sexually transmitted infections or pregnancy. We will also know when to expect lab results from tests, such as Pap smears, that will allow us to promptly share the results with the patient and assist her or him in accessing additional care," says James Stewart, president and CEO of PPRSRSR.

The three-year grant will help PPRSRSR purchase the necessary infrastructure to allow each affiliate to participate as well as provide funds to prepare and train health center staff in the electronic practice management electronic health records systems. Adoption of electronic health records has been identified by the New York State Department of Health as a priority. "An EHR system not only improves operational efficiency, but allows a practice to link coding and billing which will enable PPRSRSR to maximize revenue and improve cash flow by expediting payment from third party payers. In addition, the streamlining of appointment scheduling will enable PPRSRSR to increase its capacity to serve its female and male patients," says John Urban, president and CEO of Greater Rochester Health Foundation.

"In reviewing the proposal for funding, we recognized the need for affiliates to be able to track and serve a young, mobile patient population. PPRSRSR patients are very loyal but cannot always seek treatment from the same health center. The system allows for quick transfer of medical records and all affiliate practitioners will have real-time access to complete patient health information when it is needed," says Louis Papa, MD, chair of GRHF's board program committee.

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