



PRESS RELEASE
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**ELLIOT HEALTH SYSTEM IS FIRST IN NEW HAMPSHIRE TO ACHIEVE STAGE ONE,
MEANINGFUL USE CERTIFICATION FOR ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS**

Manchester, NH – Elliot Health System is the first healthcare organization in New Hampshire to achieve stage 1, meaningful use (MU) certification from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The stage 1 meaningful use criteria set the baseline for electronic data and information sharing. For eligible providers, there are a total of 25 meaningful use objectives of which 20 must be met to achieve stage 1 meaningful use. Elliot exceeded the minimum requirements standards by meeting 21 of the MU objectives.

To help bring higher quality and safer care to patients through broader adoption of electronic health records (EHRs), the ARRA HITECH Act of 2009 has provided incentives to hospitals and providers who become “meaningful users” of EHRs. In achieving the stage 1, meaningful use criteria, Elliot is not only a leader in the state but also among the first healthcare providers nationally to demonstrate that they are using certified EHR technology in ways to improve clinical quality.

“We are thrilled to be among the first healthcare organizations in the country to achieve this stage 1 certification which is the latest example of implementing on our vision to be a leader in the use of technology,” said Denise Purington, VP, CIO. “This milestone keeps us driving down the path of giving Elliot providers across the health system immediate access to their patients’ complete health record in all care settings to improve care coordination, eliminate unnecessary duplicative tests and save time, money and most importantly, lives.”

“Elliot is clearly a technology innovator with the rare capabilities to do the heavy lifting themselves in achieving the stage 1 MU and we want to congratulate them on this important achievement,” said Jeff Loughlin, Executive Director, Regional Extension Center of New Hampshire (RECNH). “As the organization designated by the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) to support provider organizations in achieving meaningful use certification, we often provide very comprehensive services around fostering communication between community peers and government entities such as ONC and CMS. In this case, however, Elliot has been a very strong leader and implementer, and our support was limited to financial and educational assistance.”

“Our initiatives to support our providers, patients and the entire community with the best electronic medical records technology started over a decade ago and will continue as we move through the three stages of meaningful use,” adds Purington. “I am so proud of the work we have done to date and I want to thank the Elliot team who stepped up to this challenge as well as community peers and the advice and support we received from the REC of New Hampshire.”

Elliot Health System is a non-profit organization serving your healthcare needs since 1890. The largest provider of comprehensive healthcare services in Southern New Hampshire, Elliot Hospital, a 296-bed acute care facility and the first community hospital in the state serves as the cornerstone of the health system. Elliot is home to Manchester’s designated Regional Trauma Center, Elliot Breast Health Center, Elliot Urgent Care, a Level 3 Newborn Intensive Care Unit, Elliot Physician Network, Elliot Regional Cancer Center, the Elliot Senior Health Center, Visiting Nurse Association of Manchester and Southern New Hampshire, Elliot 1-Day Surgery Center and The Elliot at River’s Edge. For more information on any of Elliot’s services, call Elliot On-Call at 663-4567 or visit www.elliithospital.org.

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