

# **More than \$14 Million Dollars Awarded to Oklahoma for Advancing Health Care Technology**



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(Norman, OK) – Online Medsource congratulates the state of Oklahoma for securing more than \$14 million dollars to advance health care information technology in the Sooner State. Online Medsource President and CEO Agi Lurtz sent letters to Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry, Oklahoma Health Care Authority CEO Mike Fogarty and Oklahoma Foundation for Medical Quality President and CEO Dr. Dale Bratzler addressing the stimulus money awarded to the state from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The Oklahoma Health Care Authority was awarded more than \$8.8 million dollars in Federal stimulus funds to create a State Health Information Exchange, also called H.I.E. For electronic health records to be used more effectively by health care providers, an H.I.E. must be created to facilitate the secure exchange of medical information. It'll also enable the state to track disease and health patterns across Oklahoma and report them to the Centers for Disease Control.

One of 32 Health Information Technology Regional Extension Centers (HITREC) nationwide will be established in Oklahoma by the Oklahoma Foundation for Medical Quality. The Foundation received more than \$5.3 million dollars for this effort. Oklahoma's Regional Extension Center will act as an information resource to the state's physicians as they adopt electronic health records in their medical practices.

"The Federal Stimulus money will go a long way into bringing Oklahoma's Health Care system into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The adoption of health care information technology will benefit doctors, hospitals and, most importantly, patients," says Online Medsource President and CEO Agi Lurtz.