



Serving
underserved and
uninsured patients
at Connecticut's
largest network of
community
health centers.

Administrative:

635 Main Street
Middletown, CT 06457
860.347.6971

Service Locations:

CHC of Clinton

114 East Main Street
Clinton, CT 06413
860.664.0787

CHC of Danbury

8 Delay Street
Danbury, CT 06810
203.797.8330

CHC of Enfield

5 North Main Street
Enfield, CT 06082
860.253.9024

CHC of Groton

333 Long Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340
860.446.8858

CHC of Meriden

134 State Street
Meriden, CT 06450
203.237.2229

CHC of Middletown

635 Main Street
Middletown, CT 06457
860.347.6971

CHC of New Britain

One Washington Square
New Britain, CT 06051
860.224.3642

CHC of New London

One Shaw's Cove
New London, CT 06320
860.447.8304

CHC of Old Saybrook

263 Main Street
Old Saybrook, CT 06475
860.388.4433

**Dental Center
of Stamford**

141 Franklin Street
Stamford, CT 06901
203.969.0802

Norwalk Smiles

49 Day Street
Norwalk, CT 06854
203.854.9292

www.chc1.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 30, 2009

CHC receives U.S. grant of \$400,000 to expand electronic health records

*2-year quality improvement grant focuses on improving
outcomes for high blood pressure cases in minorities*

MIDDLETOWN, CONN. -- CHC has received one of five grants awarded nationwide for Electronic Health Record Quality Improvement grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The \$400,000 grant will build on the pioneering work that CHC has done with Electronic Health Records. The focus of this grant is to build a national model for hypertension control with a focus on minority groups.

The grant was announced yesterday by Secretary Kathleen Sebelius of HHS. Included in the work will be a patient's ability to monitor his or her blood pressure from home, using a new Internet link to his or her health records.

"Broad use of health information technology has the potential to improve health-care quality, prevent medical errors, and increase the efficiency of care provision," said David Blumenthal, national coordinator for health information technology for HHS. "This program supports the Department's overall efforts to assist physicians and hospitals in adopting and becoming meaningful users of health information technology."

The department released a total of \$27.8 million to 27 agencies. CHC was one of only five agencies to receive funding in its category of quality improvement based on existing use of electronic health records.

"The award is an important recognition of CHC's leadership in the field of electronic health records," said Mark Masselli, CHC's

-- more --



Page 2/CHC receives U.S. grant of \$400,000

president and CEO. “Now we will be able to engage our patients directly in the use of these records to improve their health and to correct a long-time health disparity in our health-care system – the large proportion of minority group members with high blood pressure.”

Founded in 1972 as a small, free clinic in Middletown, CHC is now one of the largest health centers of its kind in the nation, serving more than 70,000 underserved patients in 12 sites and 180 locations across Connecticut. The agency offers core services of medical care, dentistry and behavioral health care to patients with little or no health insurance.

High blood pressure is a leading cause of illness and death among the population at large, but particularly among members of minority groups. Controlling high blood pressure will reduce the incidents of strokes, heart attacks, and heart and kidney failures. Because of historic disparities in our health-care delivery system,, CHC with this grant will focus on minority groups, particularly African-American patients.

For CHC, the electronic health record in this case will improve provider behavior and practice, and patient engagement through self-management. For the patient’s part, he or she will be able to do home monitoring of blood pressure readings, and download other blood pressure readings for integration into his or her electronic health record.

In its annual survey of patients, CHC has found a growing trend of Internet access of one kind or another by its patients. That number now stands at 70 percent. (CHC saw 56,000 patients in 2008.) Most of CHC patients desire to use the Internet to contact their providers, request prescription refills, or receive lab results. More than 55 percent said they would use a web link to get that information.

The expanded use of electronic health records by CHC will help improve the outcome of patients with high blood pressure. CHC was one of the early pioneers to embrace electronic health records and now is introducing a new patient link.

##