

**Q**

**What is Wide River Technology Extension Center (TEC)?**

**A**

Wide River TEC is the Health Information Technology (HIT) Regional Extension Center (REC) for the state of Nebraska. Wide River TEC operates as a separate business unit within CIMRO of Nebraska, the Nebraska Medicare Quality Improvement Organization. CIMRO of Nebraska manages and oversees functions of Wide River TEC.

**Q**

**What are the Health Information Technology (HIT) Regional Extension Centers?**

**A**

The HIT Regional Extension Centers (Regional Centers) are established through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 as part of the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act.

**Q**

**What is the role of HIT Regional Extension Centers?**

**A**

HIT Regional Extension Centers assist providers in adopting, implementing and achieving meaningful use with their electronic health record (EHR)/HIT system.

**Q**

**What type of assistance does Wide River TEC provide?**

**A**

Wide River TEC provides education and training to all Nebraska healthcare providers through distribution of resources on evaluating, implementing and utilizing an EHR. Regional training sessions will be conducted in numerous locations across the state. The assistance provided can be broken down into two levels:

1. General Assistance – Includes outreach, education, workforce support, tools and resources in all aspects of EHR/HIT adoption, implementation and meaningful use for all primary care providers
2. Technical Assistance – Includes direct, one-on-one, intensive assistance in the areas of vendor selection, group purchasing, implementation, workflow redesign, interoperability, health information exchange (HIE) and privacy and security for priority primary care providers

Q

**Who are the priority primary care providers?**

A

The HITECH Act requires Regional Centers prioritize the assistance they provide to priority primary care providers. Priority primary care providers are defined as:

Physicians and healthcare professionals with prescriptive privileges; primarily focused on primary care in the following settings:

- ❖ Individual and small-group practices (10 or fewer professionals with prescriptive privileges) primarily focused on primary care;
- ❖ Outpatient primary care services offered at public and Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs);
- ❖ Community health centers and rural health clinics; and
- ❖ Other settings that predominantly serve uninsured, underinsured and medically underserved populations.

Q

**Will Wide River TEC tap into the expertise of other organizations as the Regional Extension Center?**

A

Wide River TEC collaborates with over 30 stakeholder groups, including NeHII, the state-designated Health Information Exchange, which provides opportunities for synergy and coordination in achieving HIT goals. To develop a workforce of trained professionals, the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center will lead efforts among Nebraska’s post-secondary institutions to promote integration of health information technology into the training of health professionals and supporting staff.

**Additional Information**

For more information about Wide River TEC, contact a member of the Wide River staff at 402.476.1700 or visit [www.widerivertec.org](http://www.widerivertec.org).

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