

# CalOptima Regional Extension Center

*Your Trusted Advisor in Health IT*



CALOPTIMA  
**FOUNDATION**  
COREC

COREC PRESS RELEASE

January 26, 2012

*For Immediate Release*

For more information, contact:  
Karynsue Frank, COREC Director  
Phone: 714-347-5786  
Email: kfrank@caloptima.org

## **Seven Orange County Physicians Become Meaningful Users of Electronic Health Records**

**ORANGE, Calif. (January 26, 2012)** — Seven physicians are among the first in Orange County to attest for meaningful use of electronic health records (EHRs) and receive federal incentive payments as part of a national program to improve the safety, quality and efficiency of patient care. Meaningful Use vanguards announced by the CalOptima Regional Extension Center (COREC) today are Drs. Susan Dindot, Daniel Jimenez, Jolanta Lukawski, Yong Kuo, Kathryn Rigonan, Shida Saam, and Carmen Terreros.

“We salute these physicians who are at the forefront of helping their patients realize the benefits of electronic health records,” said COREC Director Karynsue Frank. “COREC’s job is to ensure that providers can qualify to receive financial support from the government for their transition to EHRs, realize the overall goal of achieving meaningful use and improve the way health care is delivered in Orange County.”

“Until you have an electronic health record system you don’t fully appreciate the amount of paper handled in a physician’s office and the time spent filing and searching patient records,” said Jolanta Lukawski, M.D., a solo physician who has practiced in Orange County for the past 10 years. “My patients love having their summaries of their visits and written plan at the time they leave the office, she added.

Solo practitioners enrolled with COREC receive onsite technical support including a practice assessment and assistance with selecting an EHR platform and achieving meaningful use. Approved comprehensive service partners are MedIT Resources, All Medical Solutions, and e<sub>2</sub>o Health.

While Dr. Lukawski purchased her EHR in 2010 she said she probably wouldn’t have gone through the attestation process without the help of COREC and its service partner MedIT Resources. “It’s an overwhelming process,” she said, “but COREC made it possible.”

For Daniel Jimenez, M.D., an EHR has been a part of his solo family practice for nearly eight years. “One thing I love about electronic health records is that I can take a call from a patient and pull up the chart at a snap of a finger vs. having to go into a file room, search for the file and then read through it looking for the information I need. The electronic record organizes the information for me. It’s just a lot quicker and more thorough. I can even securely access records from outside my office through any provider portal.”

The EHR enables Dr. Jimenez' office to easily identify patients who need special follow-up, such as elderly patients for whom flu shots are recommended. He noted that introducing an EHR into a practice can be time-consuming initially because information must be scanned into the electronic record. "But once it's in there, it's like magic," he said.

###

#### **About COREC**

The CalOptima Regional Extension Center (COREC) is a nonprofit, public venture by the CalOptima Foundation established to serve and support the community of clinical providers in Orange County in becoming adept and meaningful users of electronic health record systems. COREC has fostered the collaboration of health information technology specialists to develop strategies and practices that streamline adoption of electronic health records. COREC is a federally designated Regional Extension Center funded by the Office of the National Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Service, Award Number: 90RC0066.