



Oregon's largest multi-specialty, physician-owned medical clinic.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Oregon Clinic Demonstrates Commitment to Best Practices in Patient Care by Meeting “Meaningful Use” Criteria

*Meaningful use of electronic health record systems supports better clinical decisions and
continuity of patient care*

Portland, Ore., Dec. 28, 2011 – The Oregon Clinic, the largest private specialty physician practice in Oregon, has successfully met meaningful use objectives as defined by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Meaningful use criteria are part of a federal incentive program to encourage physicians to use electronic health records (EHR) systems in ways that are intended to improve quality, safety and effectiveness of patient care.

The Oregon Clinic's path toward meaningful use began in 1998 when its Pulmonary Division was one of the first groups in the state to implement an EHR solution. By 2005, all divisions and nine specialties of The Oregon Clinic were taking advantage of EHR to advance patient care and safety. These specialties include Pulmonology, Ear Nose & Throat, Gastroenterology, General Surgery, Neurology, Thoracic Surgery, Podiatry, Plastic Surgery and Urology.

“Meaningful use is about diverse specialists coming together to follow the best practices for patient care,” said Craig Fausel, MD, CEO and president of The Oregon Clinic. “It represents a tremendous step toward higher quality, lower cost health care. By meeting the criteria of meaningful use, The Oregon Clinic remains in the forefront of our field.”

To meet meaningful use criteria, physicians at The Oregon Clinic showed how use of certified EHR technology significantly improves care in measurable ways. For example, under meaningful use guidelines, physicians receive improved access to real-time clinical information, such as test results, and patients receive a summary of each visit outlining all medical care, tests and prescriptions. This approach has many benefits, including:

- Faster access to records and data, which accelerates diagnosis, treatment and follow-up.
- Reduction in errors by helping physicians anticipate potential problems much earlier.
- Reduced costs associated with unnecessary tests.
- Faster, better clinical decision-making by providing clinicians with more comprehensive patient data.
- Automation of prescriptions and refills and alerting health care professionals to medication duplication or potentially dangerous drug interactions.

“This is especially impressive when you consider that very few other physicians in the state have met meaningful use guidelines so far,” said Dr. Fausel.

According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the EHR Incentive program, 114,925 providers registered for the Medicare incentive program. Of those, 10,155 providers successfully met Meaningful Use criteria by the end of November.

About The Oregon Clinic

The Oregon Clinic is the largest private specialty physician practice in Oregon, with more than 140 providers practicing over 30 different medical and surgical specialties and sub-specialties. We use a team approach to address health conditions at more than 15 locations from Vancouver to Salem, and from Hood River to Astoria. Founded in Portland in 1994, our physicians and staff are committed to delivering the highest quality patient care, practicing evidence-based medicine, and providing leadership for the healthcare community. Visit www.orclinic.com or call 503-935-8000 for more information.

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