



## NEWS RELEASE

### **Rhode Island Quality Institute Receives \$2.7 Million Federal Grant to Improve Care Coordination and Transitions for Long-Term Care Patients and Caregivers**

**AUGUST 06, 2015, PROVIDENCE, RI** – The Rhode Island Quality Institute (RIQI) today announced that it has been awarded the *Advance Interoperable Health Information Technology Services to Support Health Information Exchange* grant from the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC).

The two-year, \$2.7 million grant will support the Sharing Health Information for Transitions in Care (SHIFT in Care) project which will leverage the existing capabilities of RIQI's [CurrentCare](#) and [Regional Extension Center \(RIREC\)](#) to expand the capacity for statewide exchange of health information. The grant supports the integration of electronic health records (EHRs) from long-term/post-acute care (LTPAC) facilities, leading to the ability to alert primary care and other providers in the community when patients are admitted to or discharged from long-term care facilities in the state.

“LTPAC patients are a population with complex health care needs who may require various specialists, often resulting in duplication of services, care fragmentation, and inaccurate, incomplete or delayed transfer of health information,” said John Gage, Chief Operating Officer, Health Concepts, Ltd, which operates twelve skilled nursing facilities in Rhode Island providing subacute nursing and rehabilitation, Alzheimer's care and long term care services. “This project will fill gaps in timing of communications, quality of the data exchanged, and availability of the information to both patient and provider where needed.”

The primary objectives for the project are: 1) increase the number of health IT services adopted and used by providers and individuals, 2) increase the electronic exchange of information by assisting care providers and individuals with sharing health records through CurrentCare, 3) address the ability of disparate systems to securely exchange information, and 4) promote better access to their health information for individuals.

The outcomes associated with these objectives will help Rhode Island achieve the Triple Aim of better health, better healthcare and lower per capita costs by engaging patients and their families; offering real-time, relevant information; increasing efficiency; and reducing errors, duplication and avoidable admissions.

“Through the implementation of health IT services such as Alerts, CurrentCare Viewer, and Dashboards, providers throughout the state will have the tools they need to better manage patient transitions both to and from long-term and post-acute care facilities,” said Darlene Morris, Director, Regional Extension Center, RIQI. “We’re very pleased to have been awarded this funding and look forward to providing even more support for the transformation of our health care delivery system in the state of RI.”

Participating patients and their family members and other caregivers will also be provided access to their data in CurrentCare and will be taught the benefits of viewing, downloading, and transmitting their information using data portals.

“The Rhode Island Quality Institute continues to lead the way on health information exchange. This funding will enable connections between CurrentCare and long-term care facilities, which for far too long have been left out of our health IT infrastructure. Connecting these facilities will help health care providers better coordinate care and improve health outcomes. I congratulate RIQI on earning this award,” said U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, who founded RIQI during his time as Rhode Island Attorney General and is a strong advocate in Washington for health care delivery system innovation and reform.

Located within the Office of the Secretary for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), ONC is at the forefront of the US government’s health IT efforts and is a resource to the entire health system to support the adoption of health information technology and the promotion of nationwide health information exchange to improve health care. ONC ranked CurrentCare in the Top 10 in the nation for rapidly expanding use of health information exchange.

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#### **About Rhode Island Quality Institute**

RIQI is a center of collaborative innovation that advances health and healthcare transformation. Our mission is to improve the quality, safety and value of healthcare and share knowledge that advances the field of healthcare improvement. RIQI is a 501c3 non-profit organization founded in 2001 and overseen by a Board of Directors comprised of senior health industry leaders from our community, including CEOs of hospitals, health insurers and health-related businesses, along with leaders of consumer groups, academia and government agencies. For more information, visit [www.riqi.org](http://www.riqi.org).