



Center for Information Technology Leadership



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**INAUGURAL COURSE IN eHEALTH TO TAKE PLACE  
APRIL 28-30 IN BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

*Register Early – Space is Limited*

**BOSTON, MA, December 14, 2005** – We are witness to a sea change in healthcare that stems from the universal view that information technologies must be adopted by all stakeholders in healthcare to reduce healthcare cost, and errors, enhance patient-provider communication, and improve quality. This transformation from "paper" to electronic requires careful planning, preparation and training, especially for providers, in order to be successful. It is vital that providers carefully consider both the patient perspective about technology - that is, the wants, desires and needs of patients today and in the future, and best practices for the application of healthcare information technology to clinical care - so that the decision to invest in technology achieves the promise of healthcare transformation.

To address this need, the Center for Information Technology Leadership (CITL), Partners HealthCare System and the Health e-Technologies Initiative (HETI), Brigham and Women's Hospital have joined together to present a groundbreaking course entitled *Patient-Centered Computing and eHealth: State of the Field*. The course is being offered via Harvard Medical School's Department of Continuing Education, and is also co-sponsored by the Division of General Internal Medicine and Primary Care and the Department of Psychiatry at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Additionally, the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) is providing educational support. "This course is distinctive in that the emphasis is not only on the acquisition of knowledge about eHealth and patient-centered computing, but also skills development whereby participants will be able to apply what they learn to their practices," said course co-director David K. Ahern, Ph.D.

During the two-and-a-half day course, specific topics to be addressed include:

- best practices and guidelines for the use of eHealth applications (e.g., Electronic Health Records, Personal Health Records, secure messaging, web visits),
- the evidence base that exists regarding technology's role in behavior change and chronic disease management (diabetes, heart failure, depression, etc.),
- the role of eHealth in enhancing patient safety,
- the value proposition for physicians and other providers of using eHealth strategies,

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- patients' perspectives on eHealth applications and technologies, and their viewpoint about the impact on healthcare costs, quality and satisfaction,
- information about working collaboratively and communicating effectively with patients to wade through the plethora of information on the Internet,
- opportunities and risks in clinical data sharing, and
- future trends in patient-centered computing and eHealth.

Through discussions and demonstrations, participants will explore the plentiful opportunities and challenges that arise from the implementation and use of patient-centered computing. Course co-director Blackford Middleton, M.D., M.P.H., M.Sc. adds, “We are particularly pleased to have assembled an expert faculty from both Harvard clinical institutions and Partners HealthCare, as well leading experts from across the country, to provide a balanced and insightful view of the state of the field.”

CITL (<http://www.citl.org/>) is a research organization established to help guide the healthcare community in making more informed strategic information technology (IT) investment decisions. Using a rigorous, analytic approach, CITL assesses information technologies, disseminates its research findings, and provides additional services designed to help healthcare providers realize greater value and improve quality of care. CITL’s research is also used by technology vendors to develop more effective healthcare IT products.

HETI (<http://www.hetinitiative.org/>) is a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation® (RWJF). The program creates and implements a scientifically-based research agenda by evaluating promising interventions and providing the evidence base and knowledge required to build better eHealth programs.

For more information and to register for *Patient-Centered Computing and eHealth*, please visit <http://www.cme.hms.harvard.edu/courses/ehealth> or call 617-384-8600.

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