



## Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **MARY'S CENTER FOR MATERNAL AND CHILD CARE LAUNCHES NEW ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORD SYSTEM**

**Washington DC**—Today, Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care launched its Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system, eClinicalWorks—a major step in the Center's efforts to improve communication and quality of care for all patients. For the past year, Mary's Center has worked with the DC Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO) to prepare for the full implementation of eClinicalWorks, which involved installing and updating hardware and software and intensive training of Mary's Center staff.

By joining the RHIO, a collaborative initiative of the DC Primary Care Association, DC Department of Health, National Institute of Medical Informatics, and Montgomery Primary Care Coalition, Mary's Center can now share and access critical information with other providers, ensure that the information remains secure, and ultimately provide patients' with the safest and highest-quality care. Immediate benefits to providers and participants include:

- Providers have up-to-date and accurate patient data at a moment's notice;
- Providers easily collaborate and ensure they are not duplicating efforts, and electronically refer patients to other medical and social services;
- Patients no longer need to repeat health and medication histories every time they visit a new clinic or provider;
- Registration is completed and appointments are scheduled electronically;
- Providers receive reminders about prevention and care guidelines for patients;
- Clinic staff and providers access treatment and prescription records electronically, eliminating the use of and reliance on difficult-to-read handwritten records.

Alvaro Simmons, Chief Operating Officer of Mary's Center, helped to guide Mary's Center through the implementation process, which was done in partnership with the DC Primary Care Association and five other health centers throughout the District. Mr. Simmons noted the importance of EMRs for Mary's Center, saying that "it improves the quality of care and improves the ability to manage chronic

diseases.” Mr. Simmons also adds that “electronic medical records equate to more efficient billing practices because the system does it all.”

“It was a very intensive preparation and implementation process, but it was well worth it,” said Javed Kazi, Director of Management Information Systems at Mary’s Center. “Overall, it has taken 24 months and has enlisted the support and use of all Mary’s Center staff but all of our participants will be happy with the improvements.”

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*Mary’s Center for Maternal and Child Care is a federally qualified health care center that has been serving DC Metro area residents for more than twenty years. The mission of Mary’s Center is to build better futures through delivery of health care, education and social services as we continue save lives and strengthen communities, one family at a time.*  
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