To: Janet Marchibroda, CEO eHealth Initiative

From: Amy Helwig, MD, MS

Date: February 16, 2006

Re: eHealth Initiative Toolkit Resources Support Physician Practice
        Transformation

The eHealth Initiative and Foundation has developed a pioneering *Connecting Communities Toolkit* designed to support learning across and among diverse stakeholders including state, regional and community-based organizations. One of the featured key stakeholders represented in the toolkit is practicing clinicians and their unique needs to effectively participate in health information exchange to improve quality of care, safety and efficient delivery of healthcare. The information in the *Toolkit* is available **free of charge** to the general public.

One module is dedicated to Practice Transformation. This module addresses methods for transforming the way care is delivered in the clinician's office, and redesign efforts that further engage physicians in health information exchange (HIE). At the heart of the redesign process are the clinicians delivering care and the patients who receive health care.

This module represents the work of the eHealth Initiative Practicing Clinician Working Group focused on Practice Transformation and their current working projects and principles around practice transformation – primarily targeted at small and medium size clinician offices. It is designed as a reference for practicing clinicians and communities to highlight methods of care redesign and to provide a practical road map for those clinicians on the practice transformation journey.

The Practice Transformation module of the *Connecting Communities Toolkit* provides common principles central to the success of physician participation in HIE, a roadmap delineating steps for clinicians to follow while engaging in practice transformation using HIT and HIE, tools consisting of eHI developed reference guides for clinicians and a comprehensive resources listing of the work of other leading organizations.

The purpose of our working group is to conduct research, assess lessons learned from clinicians and identify best practices for transforming healthcare through HIT adoption and health information exchange. Our group synthesizes this knowledge and experience into a set of common principles, policies and standards and vets these with national experts and on-the-ground implementers. Additionally, we develop practical tools and resources that emphasize timely, accurate, and secure information transfer to stakeholders allowing the right care to be delivered at the right time. These

tools support physicians and medical offices involved with state, regional and community-based health information exchange efforts.

Specific tools currently available in our resource section of the Practice Transformation module include
1. eHI Lab to Practice connectivity report. Electronic interoperability between small practices and the rest of the healthcare environment requires a universal, 'plug-and-play' strategy for implementation of connectivity and secure messaging. This report identifies the barriers to laboratory-to-practice interoperability, the opportunities to overcome them, and recommends a two year roadmap to resolution.
2. eHI Master Quotation Guide: a standard approach to master quotation, contracts and related business practices that can be used by prospective EHR purchasers and the vendors of these products to decrease the complexity of purchase and migration to electronic health records and other HIT in the small and medium size medical practice.
3. Numerous links to white papers and resource centers for physicians evaluating and implementing HIT, pay for performance and new care delivery models- including references to the work of ACP, AAFP, and IOM.

The *Toolkit* is a dynamic project and will continue to expand with our Practice Transformation working group deliverables. Under the leadership of our co-chairs Michael Barr, MD, MBA and Joseph Heyman, MD we will add the following tools in 2006:
1. Guide to Support Physician Office Engagement in Emerging Health Information Exchange Efforts
2. Guide to Support Clinician Involvement and Use of Health Information Exchange in Quality Improvements and Measurements Efforts
3. Best Practices/case studies identification