

**Project Title:** Ambulatory Electronic Medical Record and Shared Access  
**Principal Investigator:** DeLuca, Michael, M.B.A., M.S.  
**Organization:** Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center  
**Mechanism:** RFA: HS05-013: Limited Competition for AHRQ Transforming Health Care Quality through Information Technology (THQIT)  
**Grant Number:** UC1 HS 016128  
**Project Period:** 09/05 – 09/09, Including No-Cost Extension  
**AHRQ Funding Amount:** \$1,500,000  
**Summary Status as of:** December 2008

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**Strategic Goal:** Develop and disseminate health IT evidence and evidence-based tools to support patient-centered care, the coordination of care across transitions in care settings, and the use of electronic exchange of health information to improve quality of care.

**Business Goal:** Knowledge Creation

**Summary:** The goal of this project is to implement an ambulatory electronic medical record (EMR) system across multiple and varied health care settings in a medically underserved region of east central Illinois. To meet this goal, the project is using a Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology (CCHIT) certified EMR, the Medical Practice Management (MPM) suite of software developed by LSS Data Systems. The first site went live on the MPM software in October of 2007, and use of the system has expanded to six additional sites. All implementation sites thus far are smaller clinics; the project aim of deploying the MPM system at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center, which has a high-traffic ambulatory practice, is on hold. The hardware and software being used have been subject to significant revisions, requiring postponement of the project's timetable. In addition, efforts to promote clinician buy-in have produced less significant results than initially hoped.

### Specific Aims

- Upgrade broadband network infrastructure at implementation sites. **(Achieved)**
- Customize system software for implementation sites, including data dictionaries, analogues of paper forms, a billing module, and backup procedures in case of system downtime. **(Ongoing)**
- Implement system at 20 clinics in the local area. **(Ongoing)**

**2008 Activities:** System development continued into 2008, with revisions being made to the scope of the systems, particularly its billing functionality and its data dictionaries. Implementation occurred at several sites.

**Preliminary Impact and Findings:** Despite the use of expert consultants, the hardware selection process was not optimal, resulting in project delays. Clinician buy-in has proven difficult to secure; progress has been incremental, and this process is ongoing. Several sites have had successful implementations. Software improvement is an ongoing process in collaboration with the vendor, LSS Data Systems.

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### Selected Outputs

The project developed a training manual for the EMR system.

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**Grantee's Most Recent Self-Reported Quarterly Status:** Project momentum was interrupted due to technological delays, including development of some system functionality and availability of compatible point-of-care tablet PC devices. Efforts to expand system implementation to other practices continue.

**Milestones:** Progress is mostly on track.

**Budget:** Spending is roughly on target.