



For Immediate Release
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Alaska Native Medical Center receives Project Excellence Award
Electronic Health Record system implementation nationally recognized

(Anchorage, Alaska, November 21, 2011) – The Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) received the Cerner Consulting Project Excellence Award in recognition of its successful electronic health record (EHR) implementation completed this month.

The award is given to health care organizations by the Cerner Corporation for operational, financial and relationship excellence during the EHR implementation phase. Criteria include significant conversion during the quarter, strong partnership between Cerner and the client, operational excellence/efficiency during the project, and overcoming significant adversity during the project with positive outcomes. ANMC was honored in both the 2nd and 3rd quarters of 2011.

ANMC is jointly operated by Southcentral Foundation (SCF) and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC). Members from both organizations were highly involved in all phases of design and implementation of the new EHR system, and ANMC successfully converted over 40 programs to the new system on Oct. 1. The project was under budget in both expenses and hours.

“I’ve been involved in three EHR go lives in my career, and this was the largest and most complicated but also the most successful,” explained Gary Shaw, ANMC administrator and senior vice president at ANTHC. “I’ve never seen an entire suite rolled out in such a seamless manner, and that success is truly a testament to the sterling staff across ANMC. Their work and this system will lead directly to information being in the right place at the right time, and ultimately better care for those we serve.”

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“We chose to partner with Cerner because they were the best fit for designing a system to fit our relationship-based system of care,” said Justin Atteberry, SCF’s director of operations for its medical services division. “We required an EHR system very different from other health care organizations; most challenging was creating a system that combined our inpatient and outpatient services.”

“Never before has Cerner seen an organization go live with the entire suite of electronic health record products across more than 25 clinics without any phasing in over time,” said SCF Vice President of Medical Services Dr. Douglas Eby. “This top EHR recognition is a testament to the ability of our staff and leadership to partner in an effective way. ANMC is not only a place of personal relationships and compassionate sharing, but also a place able to manage complex projects and mobilize effectively thousands of individuals around a critical project such as an EHR go-live.”

For customer-owners, the EHR system will improve medical record safety and privacy, prescription safety, and provide alerts and reminders about health screenings and immunizations. Future plans include creating a customer-owner portal that will allow customer-owners to access their own medical records electronically.

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About the Alaska Native Medical Center:

The Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) provides comprehensive inpatient and outpatient medical care to Alaska Native and American Indian people. The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and Southcentral Foundation jointly own and manage ANMC under the terms of Public Law 105-83. These parent organizations have established a Joint Operating Board to ensure unified operation of health services provided by the Medical Center.

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