

Biomedical and Health Informatics Lecture Series

**Tuesday, May 4, 2010
12:00 - 12:50 p.m., Room RR-134**

Jeff Hummel, MD, MPH

Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Medicine
Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Medical Education and Biomedical Informatics
University of Washington, Seattle

Medical Director, Washington-Idaho Regional Extension Center
Medical Director for Clinical Informatics, Qualis Health

“Financial Incentives for EHR Use and the Washington-Idaho Regional Extension Center: WIREC”

This talk will cover plans in Washington and Idaho to prepare providers to be eligible for the financial incentives for EHR adoption and meaningful use, as specified in the HITECH Act portion of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that will be distributed through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services starting in 2011. This work, now underway by the Washington-Idaho Regional Extension Center, is funded initially by the Office of the National Coordinator through an Award to Qualis Health and its consortium partners. Dr. Hummel will present the technical assistance program the WIREC is developing for guiding providers through the stages of EHR implementation so that they can navigate the complex challenges of integrating information management technology into their clinical workflows and meet the complex criteria for meaningful use that are required to qualify for the financial incentive program.

Jeff Hummel has worked since 2005 for Qualis Health, where he serves as the Medical Director for the Washington-Idaho Regional Extension Center and the Medical Director for Clinical Informatics. He leads a team of quality improvement consultants specializing in guiding ambulatory primary care practices as they integrate health information technology into their clinical practice workflows to increase efficiency and improve healthcare outcomes. Dr. Hummel graduated from Medical School at the University of Washington in 1976 and did his internal medicine residency at the University of Massachusetts. He spent his first 4 years of practice in the rural Palouse country of Eastern Washington. He returned to Seattle in the mid-1980s to work at Group Health and get a Masters Degree in Public Health at the University of Washington. While working at Group Health he also served as Medical Director for MEDEX Northwest, the Physician Assistant training program at the University of Washington School of Medicine. In 1997 Dr. Hummel was recruited to help start the University of Washington Physicians Network (UWPN), where he served as Clinic Chief at the Belltown Clinic for four years, and later became the Associate Medical Director for Clinical Improvement and Medical Informatics for UWPN. In that role he has led several major quality improvement initiatives in an EMR environment, including Diabetes, Hypertension, Asthma, and Anticoagulation. He continues his clinical practice at the Belltown Clinic.