



North Texas
Medical Center

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Please consider this document as a letter of recommendation for Mr. Jim Tate of EMR Advocate. Mr. Tate was of significant assistance to North Texas Medical Center during a recent adverse Meaningful Use audit appeal.

Our hospital was a participant in the CMS "Meaningful Use" Incentive Payment Program and attested to CMS that we had achieved Stage 1 Meaningful Use in November, 2011. We subsequently received incentive payments of \$1,014,765 from Medicare and \$763,570 from Medicaid.

In November 2012 we were notified that our Meaningful Use attestation was going to be audited by a CMS-appointed subcontractor. Under the HITECH act, a hospital attesting to Meaningful Use may be subject to audit.

In April 2013 we were notified by the subcontractor that our hospital nominally failed to achieve 1 of the 14 Core Objectives in the Meaningful Use program. The subcontractor notified CMS that our hospital was deemed to have failed to achieve Meaningful Use. CMS notified our hospital that all of their prior payments made under the program were to be recouped.

In May 2013 a demand letter from CMS was received by our hospital requesting recoupment of \$1,014,765 for the Medicare portion of our Meaningful Use payment. CMS requested full payment by June 27, 2013. It was at this time that we engaged the services of Mr. Tate and EMR Advocate. Mr. Tate was very helpful to us with the preparation of a formal appeal to CMS.

On June 24, 2013 we were notified by CMS that the adverse audit decision was being overturned and we did not have to return the 2011 EHR Incentive Payment.

I would recommend the services of Mr. Tate and EMR Advocate in the event your facility is notified that it will be subject to a Meaningful Use audit or your facility is audited, you have an adverse outcome and need to file an appeal.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Randy Bacus". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Randy Bacus, FACHE
North Texas Medical Center