



Health IT Training Solutions. Let's Start a Discussion!

As the healthcare industry scrambles to fill a health IT workforce vacuum, employers in Northern NY are helping to fill this gap by investing in their employees through training and career development. Health IT has become a critical component in the nation's healthcare transformation. To help facilitate this transformation, Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization (FDRHPO) and SUNY Jefferson Community College (JCC) have been offering health IT training to workers in Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties. They are in their fourth year of providing workers with the knowledge and skillset needed to help healthcare organizations achieve their business goals and improve patient care.

The 20-week, non-degree, certificate training program is based on the original ONC curricula designed to prepare individuals for national AHIMA CHTS health IT certifications. It covers knowledge areas pertinent to the success of the region's healthcare transformation goals including DSRIP, Meaningful Use, and PCMH. Upon completion of the program, students have the option of taking the national AHIMA CHTS-PW Health IT Certification Exam.

In order to accommodate as many workers as possible, they provide training on-campus or online, with a hands-on EHR component that can be completed remotely from any location with an internet connection. Curriculum components are updated regularly to stay current with recurring changes (e.g. Meaningful Use, ICD-10, etc.).

Emphasis is placed on topics addressing the challenges and concerns of rural caregivers and their patients. Areas of study include:

- Workflow Process Analysis and Redesign
- Meaningful Use
- Privacy & Security
- Networking and Health Information Exchange
- Healthcare Culture
- Medical Terminology
- Quality Improvement

North Country healthcare organizations are committed to both their workers and transforming the healthcare system. They have made great strides in securing a health IT workforce by supporting a training program that aligns with their business goals, fosters personal growth, and provides workers with access to new career opportunities.

We would love to hear what your region is doing to meet your health IT workforce needs. Share your thoughts, success stories and ideas and let's start a discussion!



Message by [Pat Fontana](#)
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