

HHS' Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Awards \$5 Million for Clinical Decision Support Research

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HHS' Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality has awarded \$5 million for two new health information technology contracts - one at BWH and the other at Yale University School of Medicine - that will focus on the development, adoption, implementation and evaluation of best practices using clinical decision support. Clinical decision support helps health professionals make informed patient care decisions.

The grant received at BWH, led by Dr. Blackford Middleton, represents a collaboration on clinical decision support between the hospital, the VA, Kaiser, and the Regenstrief Institute - all national leaders in clinical decision support, and Masspro - one of the leading performance improvement organizations in the United States. BWH is also joined by partners in the vendor community, GE and Siemens.

Currently, BWH lacks the technical, legal and organizational framework needed to share the hospital's content with other institutions. The purpose of this grant is to help BWH develop these frameworks to facilitate sharing of decision support content nationwide. Middleton and colleagues anticipate that such sharing will improve the efficiency with which hospitals can implement decision support content, ultimately improving the quality of patient care.