

## Herman Thompson Receives CPEHR and CPHIT Certifications

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Information Technology (IT) is quickly becoming a major component in the healthcare industry. A majority of hospitals, family practices and Community Healthcare Centers like East Georgia Healthcare Center (EGHC) currently use technology to process billing and schedule patients. Doctors and Nurses usually have only limited interaction with these front office systems, but this is about to change.

An Electronic Health Record (EHR) is a computerized version of the paper record your doctor currently uses to make and view notes about your past and current health status. EHRs have become a mainstream topic in healthcare and are being pushed by patients, insurance companies, doctors and are part of President Bush's 10-year goal to have most Americans with an EHR by 2014.



Due to the growth of EHR implementations a professional certification was started for EHR as well as an additional one for Health IT. The Certified Professional in Electronic Health Records (CPEHR) consists of 8 domains ranging from EHR selection to the legal and regulatory aspects of EHR systems. If a person passes the CPEHR test they can also achieve the Certified Professional in Health Information Technology (CPHIT) certification which consists of 2 additional domains covering CPOE and electronic providing as well as emerging Health IT infrastructure.

Having expert resources in the IT industry, that have achieved the CPEHR and CPHIT certifications, can greatly enhance an organization's planning, implementation and support of HIT and EHR solutions. EGHC is proud to announce that Herman Thompson, CIO, achieved both the CPEHR and CPHIT certifications. With the knowledge gained with these certifications Herman will be able to better assist EGHC with IT projects.

Herman stated, "The training and certification process brought together many different domains of knowledge and helped to build on to my current IT expertise. EHR is an important step forward for the healthcare of the communities we serve. Among the many benefits, EHR will improve patient education, provide instant access to patient records, and enhance patient chart information.

"We are proud of Herman's accomplishment. EHR is a valuable tool and we plan to use it to further improve the care we provide our patients. EGHC is proud to lead the way for

other healthcare centers across the country by being one of the first to implement this type of technology,” Jennie Wren Denmark, CEO.

East Georgia Healthcare Center, Inc. (EGHC) is a not-for-profit, community-based organization dedicated to improving the health and quality of life for all residents of Emanuel, Tattnall, and Treutlen Counties, regardless of their race, color, creed, religion, national origin, age, gender, disability, veteran status, and/or ability to pay. EGHC has three locations in Southeast Georgia, Swainsboro, Reidsville and Soperton.