



Estimates indicate that more than one quarter of practicing physicians in the U.S., which is those physicians that practiced in the 10 counties and parishes in Mississippi or Louisiana, may have been dislocated by Hurricane Katrina...introducing the HIMSS Katrina Phoenix project...

HIMSS – Katrina Phoenix¹ (KP) Project

Another component of its relief effort for those affected by Hurricane Katrina, HIMSS is dedicated to rebuilding paper-based medical practices decimated in the hurricane-ravaged states of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama through donations of electronic health record and practice management system (PMS) hardware, software and consulting services. Katrina Phoenix is being driven by an Advisory Board as well as the EHR Vendors Association (EHRVA).

HIMSS KP Advisory Board

Approximately 25 members of the HIMSS Katrina Phoenix Advisory Board include a wide variety of membership, such as the following:

- Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs) in the Gulf Region:
 - Information and Quality Healthcare, Ridgeland, Mississippi
 - Louisiana Health Care Review, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
 - Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation (AQAF), Birmingham, Alabama
- American Health Quality Association (AHQA)
- American College of Physicians (ACP)
- American Medical Association (AMA)
- Former HIMSS Davies Award of Excellence recipients as physician mentors

Status To Date

HIMSS established the Katrina Phoenix Project in September 2005 to coordinate EHR donations of software and services from vendors to medical practices. In July '06, the HIMSS Foundation provided a grant to Waveland Medical Center in Waveland, Miss. and implemented the first practice rebuilt through HIMSS Katrina Phoenix, with four additional practices also receiving HIMSS Foundation grants. With one "live" EMR implementation completed in AL, LA, and MS, 6 additional practices (20 sites) are in various stages of implementation, among these three states. Not only has HIMSS worked to identify practices in need and match vendor donations, but volunteer physician mentors, many HIMSS Davies Award recipients, are mentoring the practices through the EMR process. In August 2006, HIMSS partnered with Morehouse School of Medicine's National Center for Primary Care, designated as the Regional Coordinating Center for Hurricane Response through a grant from the National Institutes of Health, to assist these practices with their EMR implementation needs. With the Common Ground Health Clinic in Algiers, LA, now part of the HIMSS Katrina Phoenix Project, this philanthropic effort will continue to rebuild medical practices in the Gulf Region with donations of software and hardware, plus training and other technology consulting needs. For additional information, contact David Collins at dcollins@himss.org.

¹Phoenix: *Mythology*. A bird in Egyptian mythology that lived in the desert for 500 years and then consumed itself by fire, **later to rise renewed** from its ashes. www.dictionary.com