



850 Boylston Street, Suite 300B Chestnut Hill, MA 02467
Phone: 617/732-9727 Fax: 617/732-9730
www.hetinitiative.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR STUDIES IN eHEALTH
CALL FOR PROPOSALS ANNOUNCED**

CHESTNUT HILL, MA, Nov. 18, 2002 – The number of consumers, patients, and providers using eHealth applications, particularly the Internet, to seek health information and communicate with others is rapidly increasing. In fact, current trends indicate that Internet users seeking health information and care services will more than double from 2000 to 2005, reaching 88.5 million people. Additional technologies such as interactive TV, interactive voice response systems, kiosks, personal digital assistants, CD-ROMs, and DVD-ROMs are creating opportunities for patients and providers to benefit from access to eHealth applications in nontraditional settings.

The *Health e-Technologies Initiative*, a new national program of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation® (RWJF), has issued a call for research proposals that addresses the challenges related to the scientific methodology, design, evaluation, and outcome of eHealth applications, specifically their ability to support and maintain health behavior change or enhance patient self-management of chronic disease.

“Individuals are gaining the ability to obtain and utilize health information at relatively low cost, however, barriers to adoption of these technologies exist, including limitations of access, health and technology literacy, quality and effectiveness,” said Dr. David K. Ahern, National Program Director for the Initiative. “These challenges must be addressed in order to realize the full potential and advancement of eHealth making it vitally important to support systematic and rigorous research.”

A total of \$7.25 million will be issued of which approximately two-thirds will be awarded through this 2002 Call for Proposals (CFP). The remaining funds will be awarded via a CFP in 2003. Interested applicants can obtain more information at the Initiative’s web site, www.hetinitiative.org, via e-mail at hetinitiative@partners.org or by calling 617-732-9727.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, based in Princeton, NJ, is the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to health and health care. It concentrates its grant making in four goal areas: to assure that all Americans have access to basic health care at reasonable cost; to improve care and support for people with chronic health conditions; to promote healthy communities and lifestyles; and to reduce the personal, social and economic harm caused by substance abuse -- tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs.

Media Contact: Jen Neiley, 617-732-9727, jneiley@partners.org

###