



# Latest in Health Care



## Office of National Coordinator for Health Information Technology Invites Input on Meaningful Use of Electronic Medical Records for Purposes of Definition

*June 16, 2009*

Friday, June 26, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, is the deadline to submit comments to the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) on the recommendations about what should be considered the term “meaningful use” of electronic health records (EHRs) presented to the Health Information Technology (HIT) Policy Committee yesterday (June 16, 2009) available for review [here](#). Comments will be received by the Committee for consideration and further recommendations to the National Coordinator of Health Information Technology on the elements and measures of Meaningful Use of a certified EHR.

The HIT Policy Committee is a Federal Advisory Committee (FACA) to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) provides for Medicare and Medicaid incentive payments for eligible providers, such as physicians and hospitals, in order to promote the adoption of EHRs. To receive the incentive payments, providers must demonstrate “meaningful use” of a certified EHR. Building upon the work of the HIT Policy Committee, HHS anticipates developing a proposed rule that provides greater detail on the incentive programs and “meaningful use.” HHS expects to issue the proposed rule in late 2009, which will be followed by a comment period.

The decisions ONC makes about the definition of meaningful use will be key to the availability of provider incentives to use EHRs and other federal health care information technology reforms provided for under the HITECH Act provisions of ARRA. Parties concerned with these decisions must act quickly to provide their input. The ONC is required by ARRA to fast track these reforms for adoption, as highlighted by the limitation of the comment period invited today to only 1 week.

For instructions on how to comment or additional information, see [here](#).

### For More Information

We hope that this information is useful to you. If you need assistance with EMR or other health care technology, privacy or other health care compliance, risk management, transaction or operation concerns, please contact Curran Tomko Tarski LLP Health Practice Group Chair, Cynthia Marcotte Stamer at (214) 270-2402, [CStamer@CTTLegal.com](mailto:CStamer@CTTLegal.com), or your other favorite Curran Tomko Tarski LLP Partner.

You can review other recent health care and internal controls resources and additional information about the health industry and white collar experience of the Curran Tomko Tarski LLP attorneys at [www.CTTLegal.com](http://www.CTTLegal.com). If you or someone else you know would like to receive future updates about developments on these and other concerns, please be sure that we have your current contact information – including your preferred e-mail – by creating or updating your profile [here](#) or e-mailing this information to [CStamer@CTTLegal.com](mailto:CStamer@CTTLegal.com).