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HIMSS Electronic Health Record Association Reaches Out to Key Stakeholders on "Meaningful Use" of Certified EHRs

CHICAGO (May 20, 2009) - The Electronic Health Records Association (EHR Association) seeks broad stakeholder consensus by sharing its perspectives on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) as well as specific recommendations for the definition of "meaningful use" of certified EHRs which will be used to determine eligibility for the over \$36B in healthcare IT stimulus incentives for physicians and hospitals.

"I've been pleased to have the opportunities to speak and collaborate on behalf of the Association with healthcare executives and clinicians around the country on the ARRA term "meaningful use" of certified EHRs," said Justin Barnes, EHR Association Chairman. "I believe that our unique, collective experience as developers, implementers and providers of EHRs is being recognized as we strive to strike the right balance between practical application of these comprehensive EHR solutions and real results that support more effective, efficient care delivery." Barnes has recently made presentations on ARRA and the Association's recommendations on "meaningful use" to several organizations including HIMSS09 in April as well as Intel Corporation, several Medical Group Management Association (MGMA) chapters, Pri-Med West's annual conference and the CIO Healthcare Summit, all in late April and early May.

Barnes and Mark Segal of GE Healthcare, who is a member of the EHR Association's Government Relations Workgroup, also testified at the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS) Executive Subcommittee meeting on "meaningful use" recommendations in April. The 41 member companies of the EHR Association collaborated earlier last month in an intense effort to develop and approve the consensus recommendations on meaningful use and EHR certification for the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONCHIT) and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). These recommendations can be found on the Association's web site at <http://www.himssehra.org/ASP/statements.asp>.

The HIMSS EHR Association, chartered in 2004, provides leadership for the electronic health record community and their customers in the harmonization of HIT standards, the EHR certification process, standards-based healthcare interoperability, and performance and quality measures. The Association and its member companies have participated in all of these initiatives over the years, contributing extensive experience in the development and deployment of EHRs. EHR Association executives speak with a unified voice to represent member companies and their customers, and have supported codification of the Office of

the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) and a multi-stakeholder approach to standards and certification.

"It is truly gratifying that our Association is being called on to provide insights into the potential impacts of ARRA and to make recommendations on "meaningful use" criteria," said Andy Ury, MD, EHR Association Vice Chair. "An approach that builds on the solid work already done by HITSP, CCHIT and the EHR development community is important not only to enable EHR software providers to manage their development cycles , but even more importantly to help the clinicians using EHRs whose business is patient care, not information technology", Dr. Ury concluded.

About HIMSS EHR Association

The HIMSS EHR Association is a trade association of electronic health record (EHR) companies that join together to lead the health IT industry in the accelerated adoption of electronic health records in hospital and ambulatory care settings in the US. The Association provides a leadership forum for the EHR software provider community to speak with a unified voice relative to standards development, the EHR certification process, interoperability, performance and quality measures, and other EHR issues as they become subject to increasing government, insurance and provider-driven initiatives and requests. Membership is open to HIMSS Corporate Members companies that design, develop and market their own EHRs. The Association is a partner of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) and operates as an independent organizational unit within HIMSS. For more information, visit <http://www.himssEHRA.org>.

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