



230 E. Ohio Street
Suite 500
Chicago, IL 60611

Phone: 734-477-0852
Fax: 734-973-6996

E-mail: himssEHRA@himss.org

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Government-Funded EHR Position Statement

The HIMSS Electronic Health Record Association supports, in spirit, all efforts to accelerate Electronic Health Record (EHR) adoption and healthcare interoperability. The EHR Association urges caution, however, in the consideration of Government-funded EHR. We question the value to be gained from spending taxpayer money on developing and maintaining an EHR System. EHR systems are available today via a competitive market in which healthcare IT vendors compete on the basis of price, quality, functionality, implementation, service and ongoing support.

The private sector has invested millions of dollars to successfully meet the needs of this marketplace and is working efficiently and effectively in producing products that meet the unique implementation and interoperability needs of small, private practices at a variety of price points. As a result, adoption rates of these systems increase each year.

Government and industry are gaining momentum in making the EHR accessible and affordable for the physicians practice market. Groups such as the EHR Association, the Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology (CCHIT) and the Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel (HITSP) are working cooperatively in efforts to address core adoption and interoperability issues by leveraging an unparalleled breadth of experience in healthcare IT delivery. The EHR Association is committed to supporting the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) in accelerating the acquisition of certified EHR systems for physician practices.

The EHR Association contributes this position from collective experience educated by tens of thousands of technology installations, decades of research and development, and the voice of thousands of business leaders.

About HIMSS EHR Association

HIMSS EHR Association is a trade association of Electronic Health Record (EHR) companies that join together to lead the health information technology industry in the accelerated adoption of EHRs in hospital and ambulatory care settings in the US. Representing a substantial portion of the installed EHR systems in the US, the association provides a forum for the EHR 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 with legally formed companies designing, developing and marketing their own commercially available EHRs with installations in the US. The association, comprised of more than 40 member companies, is a partner of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) and operates as an organizational unit within HIMSS. For more information, visit <http://www.himsshehra.org>.