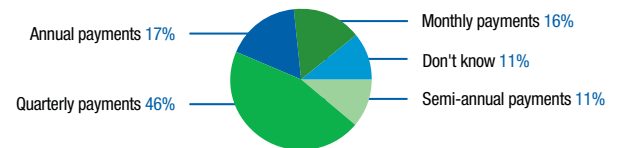


**Summary**

On February 17, 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). This act aims to stimulate the economy through a variety of means, including approximately a net amount of \$23 billion to aid in the development of a robust IT infrastructure for healthcare and to assist providers and other entities in adopting and using health IT. Nearly half of healthcare organizations indicated that the investment strategy surrounding EHRs will change as a result of the passage of the ARRA. However, more than half of respondents noted that organizations will wait to start to make financial investments until the funding guidelines are clarified.

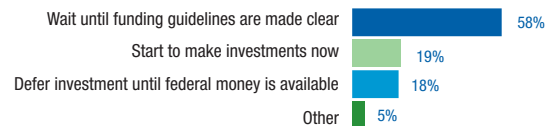
**Most Effective Frequency of Distribution of Medicare Incentive Payments to Hospitals**

Under the ARRA, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) can choose how to distribute Medicare incentive payments to hospitals. Approximately half of survey respondents believe that these incentive payments should be distributed on a quarterly basis.



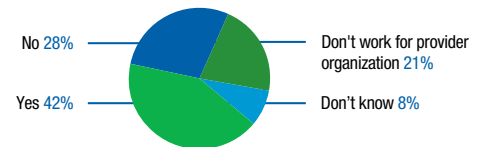
**When will Healthcare Organizations Begin to Invest in EHR Technology**

More than half of respondents indicated that healthcare organizations will wait to make financial investments in technology in order to receive the incentives promised for demonstrating the meaningful use of electronic health record (EHR) technology until the funding guidelines are clarified. About 20 percent of respondents indicated that organizations will start invest in EHR technology now.



**Will Provider Organizations Change Their Investment Strategy As a Result of ARRA**

Providers were asked to identify whether or not they anticipated that their organization's investment strategy would change as a result of the passage of the ARRA. Nearly half of respondents indicated that their investment strategy would indeed change.



**Is Incentive of Increased Medicare Payments Sufficient for Organizations To Begin Making Investments**

More than half of respondents believe that a combination of increased Medicare payments for providers that demonstrate meaningful use, combined with the threat of reduced Medicare Market Basket Adjustments for providers who don't meet the requirements will be sufficient for professionals and hospitals to begin to make investments in EHR technology.

