



HIMSS Statement

Recommendation to Extend Meaningful Use State 1 and Delay Stage 2

July 7, 2011

HIMSS applauds the comments yesterday of National Coordinator for Health IT Dr. Farzad Mostashari at the 25th meeting of the Health IT Policy Committee, where he publicly shared ONC's concurrence with the Policy Committee's recent recommendations that Meaningful Use Stage 1 be extended by one year, and Meaningful Use Stage 2 be delayed until the start of 2014.

HIMSS' [2011 Public Policy Principles](#) are in-line with the Committee's recommendations. The HIMSS principle recommends "that HHS publish criteria defining each new meaningful Stage at least 18 months before the beginning of the next stage to allow adequate time for industry to develop its response, certification to occur, if needed, and providers to implement the software and process changes needed."

Earlier this summer, HIMSS and six other organization sent a joint [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius asking, among other things, that "To allow adequate time for safe development, implementation, and adoption of software, the timeline for the next stage of Meaningful Use needs to be at least 18 months between final rules on Meaningful Use, Certification, and standards, and the start of the next stage of Meaningful Use, as recommended by the Health IT Policy Committee. Given the context of the health IT changes in ARRA, ACA, and ICD-10, sufficient time for Meaningful Use Stage 2 is especially critical for EPs and EHs."

HIMSS looks forward to our members' involvement in the public review of the proposed regulations for Meaningful Use Stage 2, which are expected to be released in Winter 2012.

About HIMSS

HIMSS is a cause-based, not-for-profit organization exclusively focused on providing global leadership for the optimal use of information technology (IT) and management systems for the betterment of healthcare. Founded 50 years ago, HIMSS and its related organizations have offices in Chicago, Washington, DC, Brussels, Singapore, Leipzig, and other locations across the United States. HIMSS represents more than 35,000 individual members, of which more than two thirds work in healthcare provider, governmental and not-for-profit organizations. HIMSS also includes over 520 corporate members and more than 120 not-for-profit organizations that share our mission of transforming healthcare through the effective use of information technology and management systems. HIMSS frames and leads healthcare practices and public policy through its content expertise, professional development, and research initiatives designed to promote information and management systems' contributions to improving the quality, safety, access, and cost-effectiveness of patient care. To learn more about HIMSS and to find out how to join us and our members in advancing our cause, please visit our website at www.himss.org.

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