

## CAQH Provides Comments to the Office of the National Coordinator Concerning the Definition of Meaningful Use

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently requested public comments on the preliminary framework for “meaningful use” of health information technology (HIT). “Meaningful use” is a term referenced but undefined in the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act, which was established by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). HITECH will provide a reimbursement incentive for physician and hospital providers who are successful in becoming “meaningful users” of HIT; in this case demonstrated primarily through the use of electronic health records (EHRs). The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has been charged with developing the definition of “meaningful use” and will consider recommendations from ONC.

On Friday, June 26, CAQH submitted comments that recommend content we believe is essential for defining “meaningful use”. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to those organizations that provided input in the development of these comments.

The full text of the CAQH comments to HHS National Coordinator for Health Information Technology David Blumenthal, M.D., M.P.P., which includes the rationale for our recommendations, is available by clicking [here](#). CAQH will continue to provide comments as the discussions develop. Excerpts of the recommendations are below:

***Recommendation 1:*** *To achieve success with the ONC policy priorities and realize the objectives of “meaningful use” by 2015, the use of administrative data is critical.*

***Recommendation 2:*** *The HITECH goals provide an important opportunity to realize the full benefits of administrative data exchange. Either through objectives and metrics for administrative data exchange, or through a linkage to initiatives supporting this data, measurable savings can be generated for providers. Establishing this linkage will offer providers a clear incentive to move to electronic, efficient and high quality decision support processes.*

***Recommendation 3:*** *A phased framework that builds upon existing momentum and supports requirements for interoperability is essential. The development of detailed toolkits will be necessary for successful outcomes.*

Please contact [Gwendolyn Lohse](#), Deputy Director, if you have any questions.