



**American Hospital
Association®**

Contact: Marie Watteau, 202-626-2351, mwateau@aha.org
Elizabeth Lietz, 202-626-2284, elietz@aha.org

**AHA STATEMENT ON HOSPITAL ADOPTION OF ELECTRONIC HEALTH
RECORDS AND THE FUTURE OF THE MEANINGFUL USE PROGRAM**

**LINDA E. FISHMAN
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS AND DEVELOPMENT**

August 7, 2014

Hospitals have made tremendous progress in adopting electronic health records (EHRs) to support better health and better care for patients, as highlighted in today's [Health Affairs article](#). The share of hospitals with an EHR has grown four-fold since 2010, to nearly 60 percent.

Despite this remarkable increase, the article also suggests the federal "meaningful use" program designed to support certified EHR adoption could go off the rails because the pace is too fast and the bar is too high. According to the article, which is co-authored by a team including officials from the Office of the National Coordinator, only six percent of hospitals surveyed were able to meet all of the Stage 2 requirements of the program. Hospitals that do not meet meaningful use by October 1 of this year could be subject to significant payment penalties under Medicare and lose promised incentives.

The AHA urges CMS and ONC to take immediate steps to ensure the success of the [meaningful use program](#), starting with finalizing the rule offering some limited flexibility in 2014 that was proposed in May.

###