



**American Hospital
Association**

Contact: Marie Watteau, (202) 626-2351

HHS DELAYS START OF MEANINGFUL USE STAGE 2 FOR A YEAR

Rich Umbdenstock
President and CEO
American Hospital Association

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America's hospitals welcome today's announcement that HHS intends to delay the start of Stage 2 meaningful use. Hospitals are committed to implementing electronic health records (EHRs) to support high quality patient care, but the rushed timelines and complex regulatory requirements of meaningful use have made the process difficult.

While the flow of meaningful use incentives to date has been slow, the delay will better align EHR adoption policy with market realities, such as limited vendor capacity to work with providers. Giving hospitals another year to implement these changes before the bar is raised on the meaningful use requirements is good news, especially for small, rural and safety net facilities.

While growing numbers of hospitals will meet the meaningful use requirements over time, this delay will help strengthen the EHR incentive program in its ability to support care system transformation and health information exchange.

Hospitals have made great strides in implementing health information technology to improve patient care and meet patient and community needs. The AHA will continue to communicate with HHS on manageable, reasonable timelines to implement all of the new administrative transaction and health reform policies that require revamping health information systems.

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