



**American Hospital
Association**

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STATEMENT ON FINAL RULE ON “MEANINGFUL USE STAGE 2”

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America’s hospitals continue to harness the power of electronic health records (EHRs) to improve and support patient care. While hospitals are accelerating their IT adoption, today’s regulations make the path more challenging.

In today’s final rule, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) addressed some Stage 2 timing concerns raised by AHA. While we appreciate that CMS has allowed for a shorter meaningful use reporting period for 2014, we are disappointed that this rule sets an unrealistic date by which hospitals must achieve the initial meaningful use requirements to avoid penalties. In addition, CMS complicated the reporting of clinical quality measures and added to the meaningful use objectives, creating significant new burdens.

Information technology holds the promise of making care better for patients and communities. That’s why America’s hospitals are committed to adopting the technology needed to do so, but today’s rule presents obstacles to achieving that goal.

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