



## American Hospital Association®

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### **STATEMENT ON OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COODRINATOR RELEASE OF AHA IT SURVEY DATA**

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Today's data prove unequivocally that the nation's hospitals are hard at work adopting electronic health records (EHRs). The uptick in overall adoption from 27% in 2011 to 44% in 2012 is impressive. However, we must recognize that implementation challenges remain for small and rural hospitals, which have made progress and should not be penalized for not being further along. For example, our preliminary analysis of the data show that while half of urban hospitals have achieved a basic EHR, only one-third of small rural hospitals have done so.

While many hospitals have been pioneers in harnessing HIT to improve patient care and quality, the challenge now is to extend its use and integrate it in all hospitals. It has required a lot of resources for hospitals to set up these systems; these costs are not sustainable given the competing priorities and financial pressures mounting on the hospital field, including the sequester cuts and other pending reductions. Priority needs to be on thoughtful adoption rather than expanded requirements which only create more

obstacles as laid out in Stage 2 and 3 of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Meaningful Use program.

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