

# Health Information Technology

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# Overview of presentation

- EHR systems
- benefits & risks
- Regulatory oversight

# EHR systems

- Record systems
- Clinical alerts and reminders
- Decision aids
- Computerized physician order entry
- Secure messaging & PHRs
- Interoperability



# Benefits of EHR systems

- Reduce errors
- Improve patient safety
- Improve preventive care
- Facilitate communication
- Research
- Cost savings
  - Optimistic estimate: \$77 billion annually



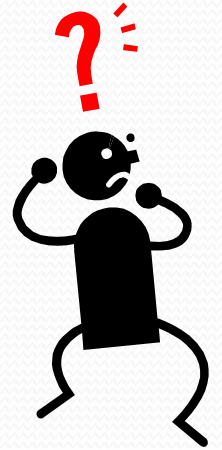
# Adopting EHR systems

- Cost & burden of adopting EHR systems
  - \$33,000 per dr. for purchase & \$1500 per dr. per month for maintenance
  - In 2010 only 17% of physicians & 12% of hospitals had multi-functional EHR systems
- Training
- Work habit adjustments



# EHR system shortcomings

- Information overload
- Data display issues
- Copy & paste
- The challenges of decision support
- Software defects & computer shut-downs



# Other concerns

- Time constraints & system demands
- Input errors
- Privacy

# Privacy and Security

- HIPAA Privacy Rule
  - Patient authorization required for disclosures other than for treatment, payment & healthcare operations
- HIPAA Security Rule
  - Administrative, physical, and technical security safeguards



# Summer 2010 regulations

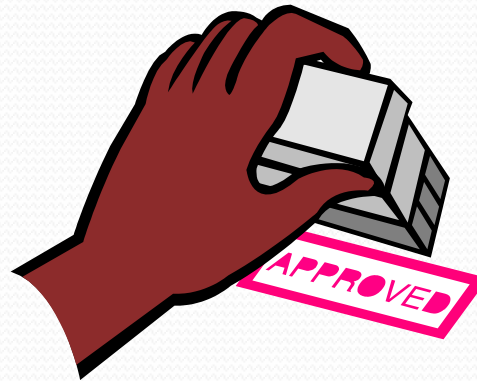
- Financial incentives for meaningful users of certified EHR systems
- \$27 billion total
  - \$44,000/\$63,750 per clinician
  - Goal: transition completed in 2014

# Meaningful use – phase 1

- What do providers need to do to be considered meaningful users?
- 15 core objectives + 5 out 10 additional
- Basic data entry requirements
- Electronic transmission of drug orders
- Decision support

# Certification criteria

- What do EHR systems need to feature to enable providers to be meaningful users?



# Certification program

- Who will certify?
- Authorized Testing and Certification Bodies (ATCB) overseen by HHS
- Use test tools & procedures approved by ONC

# Critique

- No clinical safety testing
  - At medical facilities for significant time
- No continuing review of EHR systems after certification
- No adverse event reporting
- Not everyone required to comply
- How closely will ATCBs be monitored?
  - Conflict of interest; uniform rigor; competence of all members

# Articles

- Available at:  
[http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/cf\\_dev/AbsByAuth.cfm?per\\_id=217551](http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/cf_dev/AbsByAuth.cfm?per_id=217551)
- E-Health Hazards: Provider Liability & EHR Systems
  - Berkeley Technology Law Journal
- Meaningful Use and Certification of Health Information Technology: What about Safety?
  - Journal of Law, Medicine, and Ethics