

March 5, 2010

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Office of the National Coordinator
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

The HIT Policy Committee (the Committee) is charged with recommending to the National Coordinator a policy framework for developing and adopting a nationwide health information technology infrastructure for the electronic exchange and use of health information technology. Therefore, the Committee is submitting to you recommendations that we finalized at our **February 17, 2010**, Committee meeting.

At that meeting, the Committee heard presentations and received advice from the **Meaningful Use Workgroup** on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding CMS's incentive program for the meaningful use of EHRs. The **Privacy & Security Policy Workgroup** also presented recommendations on privacy and security issues relating to CMS's privacy and security sections of the NPRM, and the ability of eligible professionals (EPs) and hospitals to meet the privacy and security MU criteria. Finally, the **Certification/Adoption Workgroup** developed recommendations on the NPRM and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology's (ONC) Interim Final Rule (IFR) related to certified EHR technology.

After considerable discussion of the presentations and the Workgroups' input, the Committee agreed upon the recommendations as stated in the attached three Workgroup letters for transmission to the National Coordinator for consideration. The Committee recommends that the National Coordinator accept its Recommendations on the NPRM and the IFR as detailed in the attached letters.

We fully appreciate your Office's and the Department's leadership role and efforts to advance widespread adoption of interoperable health information technology in the United States.

Sincerely,

/Paul Tang/

Paul Tang, MD, MS
Vice Chair
Health IT Policy Committee

Attachments:

Meaningful Use Workgroup Recommendation Letter
Privacy & Security Policy Workgroup Recommendation Letter
Certification/Adoption Workgroup Recommendation Letter