

“Electronic Health Record Incentives for Multi-Campus Hospitals Act of 2010”
H.R. 6072

The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) will provide payment incentives for EHR to eligible health professionals and hospitals providing care for Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries as long as they meet criteria for meaningful use of EHR.

Upon final publication of the regulation by the Center of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to implement the HITECH Act, it became clear to the Congress that additional clarification was needed to ensure that payment incentives would be available to all qualified hospitals that are part of larger multi-campus hospital systems. This is necessary because each campus of a multi-campus hospital system will incur costs to establish and meaningfully use EHR systems.

The bill will clarify that hospitals with multiple campuses should receive larger incentives that reflect their incremental costs incurred in installing, operating, and using certified electronic health records, and training staff at multiple campuses. The bill provides funds in a way that balances the needs of larger and smaller multi-campus hospital systems.

By way of background, the EHR payment incentive has two components: base payments of \$2 million per hospital campus and an incentive (\$200) for every discharge annually (between 1,150 and 23,000 discharges), adjusted for the Medicare and Medicaid shares of the hospital’s patients and for phase-out factors

The **Electronic Health Record Incentives for Multi-campus Hospitals Act** will:

- Clarify that EHR incentive payments under Medicare and Medicaid should go to each campus of a multi-campus hospital system consisting of a *main provider hospital* and one or more *remote location hospitals*;
- Give multi-campus hospitals the choice of two payment approaches:
 - Base payments for each campus, but only one per-discharge amount;
 - Additional per-discharge amounts for each campus, but only one base payment;
- Require main providers to attest that remote locations are meaningful users of EHR and meet other rules for Medicare & Medicaid incentives.

This bill will ensure that multi-campus hospitals receive assistance with their incremental costs incurred for EHR adoption and use, consistent with the original legislative intent of the HITECH Act. This bill will help ensure that the HITECH Act fulfills its goals of improving health quality and reducing adverse outcomes while reducing overall health care costs.