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NEWS BRIEF | 06.09.10

AHRQ Recommendation: Certification of EHRs should include usability

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) recently employed the services of James Bell Associates and the Altarum Institute to determine how EHR vendors address the topic of usability of their products. Their findings show that specific standards for usability, along with testing, monitoring, design, and best practices are virtually non-existent.

The AHRQ recommends that usability be included in the certification test for EHRs. By omitting usability from the certification criteria, it increases the likelihood of patient safety incidents, expensive post-release repairs for vendors and expansive workarounds for providers.

The AHRQ is working with the National Institute of Technology (NIST) and the ONC to tackle this issue. In the interim, the AHRQ plans to release a toolkit to aid healthcare organizations in assessing their EHRs usability.

[View the report for a complete list of recommendations >>](#)

[Read the full article >>](#)

HHS Awards 45 Health Information Technology Implementation Grants to Health Center Networks

On June 3rd, the HHS released the winners of the Health IT Implementation Grants. The ARRA funded grants awarded 45 Health-Center Controlled Networks (HCCNs) a combined total of \$83.9 Million in funding. Each HCCN is comprised of several community-based healthcare organizations working

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HITECH Act: The Yellow Brick Road to Meaningful Use

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together to support government-funded health centers delivering care to low-income and/or uninsured patients.

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The purpose of the grants is to facilitate the adoption of EHRs and other HIT systems in an effort to improve the quality and efficiency of care. In addition, the grants will provide eligible professionals serving the health centers with the ability to qualify for incentive payments by demonstrating meaningful use of their certified electronic health record systems.

[View the press release and the complete list of grant awardees >>](#)

Want to learn more about meaningful use requirements and how to meet them? Register for our June 23rd webinar on Meaningful Use:

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**HITECH Act:
The Yellow Brick Road to Meaningful Use**



During this session attendees will learn how to decipher the code that will lead them down a straight path to meaningful use. Gain access to a toolkit of

FEATURED SPEAKERS:



Beverly Bell
Implementation Practice
Director, CSC

Linda Ricca
Client Partner, CSC

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checklists and guides to support efforts to maximize HITECH Act incentives and avoid penalties.

Attendees will learn about:

- Key definitions and criteria for eligible professionals and hospitals
- Creating a comprehensive meaningful use strategy
- Readiness considerations for Stages 1, 2 and 3 of meaningful use
- EHR adoption: vendor evaluation and certification
- CPOE, meaningful use implementation and quality reporting
- HIE and HIPAA considerations

Register today! Space is limited.

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