



December 1, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
U.S. Capitol Building, S-230  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
U.S. Capitol Building, S-221  
Washington D.C. 20510

**RE: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act**

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Reid:

The undersigned members of the Physician Clinical Registry Coalition strongly support the provisions of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act designed to encourage and facilitate the exchange of clinical outcomes data between electronic health record (EHR) technologies and “clinician-led clinical data registries,” including provisions to promote interoperability of clinical data and prevent EHR vendors from blocking the transmission of such data to third parties, such as clinician-led clinical data registries.

We particularly support the inclusion of language to require that EHR technologies, as a condition of certification by the Office of National Coordinator, be capable of sharing data with clinician-led clinical data registries. In addition, the language giving the HHS Inspector General the power to investigate and take enforcement action against improper information blocking by EHR technologies will give real teeth to these prohibitions. Collectively, these provisions will go a long way toward ensuring such registries can collect the data they need to improve the quality of care and follow-up treatment provided to patients.

We are pleased that we could play an integral part in the formation of the definition of “clinician-led clinical data registries,” as this term will be critical to ensuring that data from EHR technologies is shared with bona fide clinical data registries that are capable of collecting,

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securing, and analyzing patient information in a manner that truly promotes quality improvement and medical research.

In sum, we strongly support the provisions of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act that give clinician-led clinical data registries efficient access to EHR data of their participating health care providers, while sending a strong message to EHR vendors that they will face potential prosecution and civil monetary penalties if they indiscriminately block such access.

Respectfully submitted,

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DERMATOLOGY ASSOCIATION  
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NEUROLOGY  
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY  
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY- HEAD AND NECK SURGERY  
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS/ NEUROPOINT ALLIANCE  
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS  
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF GASTROENTEROLOGY/GIQUIC  
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF RHEUMATOLOGY  
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS  
AMERICAN GASTROENTEROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION  
AMERICAN JOINT REPLACEMENT REGISTRY  
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS/AMERICAN QUALITY INSTITUTE  
AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR GASTROINTESTINAL ENDOSCOPY/GIQUIC  
AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR RADIATION ONCOLOGY  
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY  
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NUCLEAR CARDIOLOGY  
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLASTIC SURGEONS  
AMERICAN UROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION  
NORTH AMERICAN SPINE SOCIETY  
SOCIETY FOR VASCULAR SURGERY  
SOCIETY OF INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY  
SOCIETY OF NEUROINTERVENTIONAL SURGERY  
THE SOCIETY OF THORACIC SURGEONS

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cc: The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chairman, Senate HELP Committee  
The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member, Senate HELP Committee  
The Honorable Orrin Hatch, Chairman, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Ron Wyden, Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee