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**VIA HEALTHIT.GOV**

<http://www.healthit.gov/policy-researchers-implementers/strategic-plan-public-comments>

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Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Suite 729D  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

**Re: Federal Health IT Strategic Plan 2015-2020 Public Comments**

Dear Dr. DeSalvo:

On behalf of Adventist Health System (AHS), the nation's largest not-for-profit Protestant health care provider, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Federal Health IT Strategic Plan 2015-2020 prepared by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC).

Our organization includes 45 hospital campuses located across 10 states and comprises more than 7,700 licensed beds. AHS provides inpatient, outpatient and emergency room care for four million patient visits each year. Please find AHS's comments below with suggested recommendations to the Federal Health IT Strategic Plan.

We agree with the goals and concepts put forward in the Federal Health IT Strategic Plan and completely support the need for secure and interoperable health information.

AHS has years of experience with evidence-based practice and continues to work to make evidence-based content available to our providers. Today, thanks to the internet, evidence is often only a click away from most providers. However, providers do not always choose this option because it requires a break in their workflow.

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In order to improve the care that we deliver to our patients, we need actionable evidence-based content embedded within our providers' workflows. To achieve this, AHS has sought vendors of evidence-based content and encouraged our Electronic Health Record (EHR) vendor to partner with them.

While we look forward to being able to mine data and develop future knowledge, we need current clinical knowledge to be integrated within EHR systems today. Yet, it could take years to achieve this goal if health care providers, both individuals and hospitals, have to do this on their own.

In order to move more quickly to achieve this goal we recommend incentivizing EHR vendors to take this on themselves so that they can go out and find the best providers of evidence (order sets, care algorithms, referential information, etc.) and build it directly into their EHR systems. One potential incentive would be a certification process, as with Meaningful Use, that would enable EHR vendors to claim "certified evidence-based EHR" status. This would make these systems more appealing to potential buyers, especially if incentives were also provided for EHR purchasers.

Again, we remain staunch supporters of the ONC's vision and are excited to see the benefits that will be experienced by all Americans as a result of this foresight. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss further.

Sincerely,



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