March 4, 2010

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

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

The Health IT Standards Committee (the Committee) is charged with making recommendations to the National Coordinator on standards, implementation specifications, and certification criteria for the electronic exchange and use of health information, and with respect to certain topics, in accordance with policies developed by the HIT Policy Committee. Therefore, the Committee is submitting to you recommendations that we discussed at the **February 24, 2010**, Committee meeting.

The **Clinical Operations Workgroup** was specifically charged with making recommendations to the HIT Standards Committee on the role of EHRs and e-prescribing, clinical summaries, laboratory and radiology report functionality, and other matters within the scope of Stage 1 meaningful use objectives and measures, including the standards for content exchange and controlled vocabularies to be used for these purposes. After discussion, the Committee decided on all of the recommendations put forth from the Clinical Operations Workgroup, and is submitting them to you as our recommendations. (See attached letter from Clinical Operations Workgroup.)

The **Clinical Quality Workgroup** made recommendations on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking's (NPRM) expanded set of quality measures relative to provider burden and HIT standards requirements. After discussion, the Committee decided on all of the recommendations put forth from the Clinical Quality Workgroup, and is submitting them to you as our recommendations. (See attached letter from Clinical Quality Workgroup.)

The **Privacy & Security Workgroup** identified and prioritized several recommendations on security of information and the privacy of consumers, as detailed in the Interim Final Rule (IFR). After discussion, the Committee decided on all of the recommendations put forth by the Workgroup and is putting them forth to you.

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,
/Jonathan Perlin/
Jonathan Perlin
Chair
Health IT Standards Committee

Attachments:
Clinical Operations Workgroup Recommendations Letter
Clinical Quality Workgroup Recommendations Letter
Privacy & Security Workgroup Recommendations Letter