



November 30, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington D.C. 20515

RE: 21st Century Cures Act

Dear Speaker Ryan and Minority Leader Pelosi:

The undersigned members of the Physician Clinical Registry Coalition strongly support the provisions of the 21st 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 21st 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 SURGEONS
AMERICAN GASTROENTEROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
AMERICAN JOINT REPLACEMENT REGISTRY
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ANESTHESIOLOGY/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

cc: The Honorable Fred Upton, Chairman, House Energy & Commerce Committee
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member, House Energy & Commerce Committee
The Honorable Kevin Brady, Chairman, House Ways & Means Committee
The Honorable Sander Levin, Ranking Member, House Ways & Means Committee