

Meaningful Use feedback

Sent: [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Dear Senators,

I am a solo rural Family Physician. I began practice 32 years ago.

The implementation of "meaningful use" has been a disaster. I have been trying to meet it for over a year now.

1. As a solo physician I lack the resources to jump through all the hoops the government wants me to do for meaningful use.
2. The pace is too fast. There is no time for training on electronic medical records while seeing patients.
3. Some of the measures they want us to meet make no sense. For instance:
 1. One says "10% of all patients who have requested electronic access...provided within 4 days." My score is 0% because not one of my patients has requested this.
 2. Another measure is similar "50% of all patients ... who request an electronic copy". Once again my score is 0% because, you guessed it, nobody has requested this.
4. Only basic Medicare patients count toward the measurements. **Medicare Advantage patients do not.** I actually have more Advantage patients than Medicare patients. They have the same illnesses and require the same amount of work, but do not count toward meeting meaningful use measures or incentive payments.
5. As far as interoperability goes, it does not exist. Hospitals do not grant access to lab & x-ray reports unless you are on their medical staff. And no doctor's office I know shares information with another doctor's office unless they are in the same group.
6. Many doctors I speak to will never go with EMR's because of the privacy issue. Most EMR's default to "share information".
7. Support Rep. Diane Black's bill called the EHR Improvements Act to help solo physicians.

The bottom line is this: they are trying to do too much too fast. Slow down, eliminate useless measures, include Medicare Advantage, and at reduce the criteria to qualify for incentives and at least grant some funds for those of us who are trying to meet meaningful use.

I will be glad to speak to anyone about my experiences with this.

My senator is Lamar Alexander.

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