



**Federal Health Information
Technology Policy
August 5, 2009**



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ARRA/HITECH Act

Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act

- Technology is part of achieving overall healthcare reform
- Goals
 - Improved quality at a reduced cost
 - For individuals and for the overall population
- ARRA/HITECH created in law
 - The Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC)
 - Two Federal Advisory Committees
 - Health Information Technology Policy Committee
 - Health Information Technology Standards Committee
 - Annual Strategic HIT Plan
 - Enhanced Privacy and Security (HIPAA Updated)
 - Funding for HIT

ARRA/HITECH Funded

- Office of the National Coordinator for HIT
- Regional Extension Centers to provide training/support for HIT
- State Health Information Exchanges
- Infrastructure including some grants for Health IT
- Comparative Effectiveness Research
- Medicare Incentives for Physician Practices and Acute Care Hospitals for
 - Meaningful use of a certified EHR
 - Exchange of health information
 - Data Reporting
- Medicaid incentives (details to be worked out)
- Other providers (Skilled Nursing Facility, Home Health Agency, Inpatient Rehab Facility, Long-Term Acute Care Hospital, etc.) to be addressed in a report to Congress by HHS in June 2010
- Regulations on Medicare Incentive Payments – Due December 2009
 - ONC will define the Criteria and Standards
 - CMS will define the payment rules

ARRA/HITECH Created Two Federal Advisory Committees

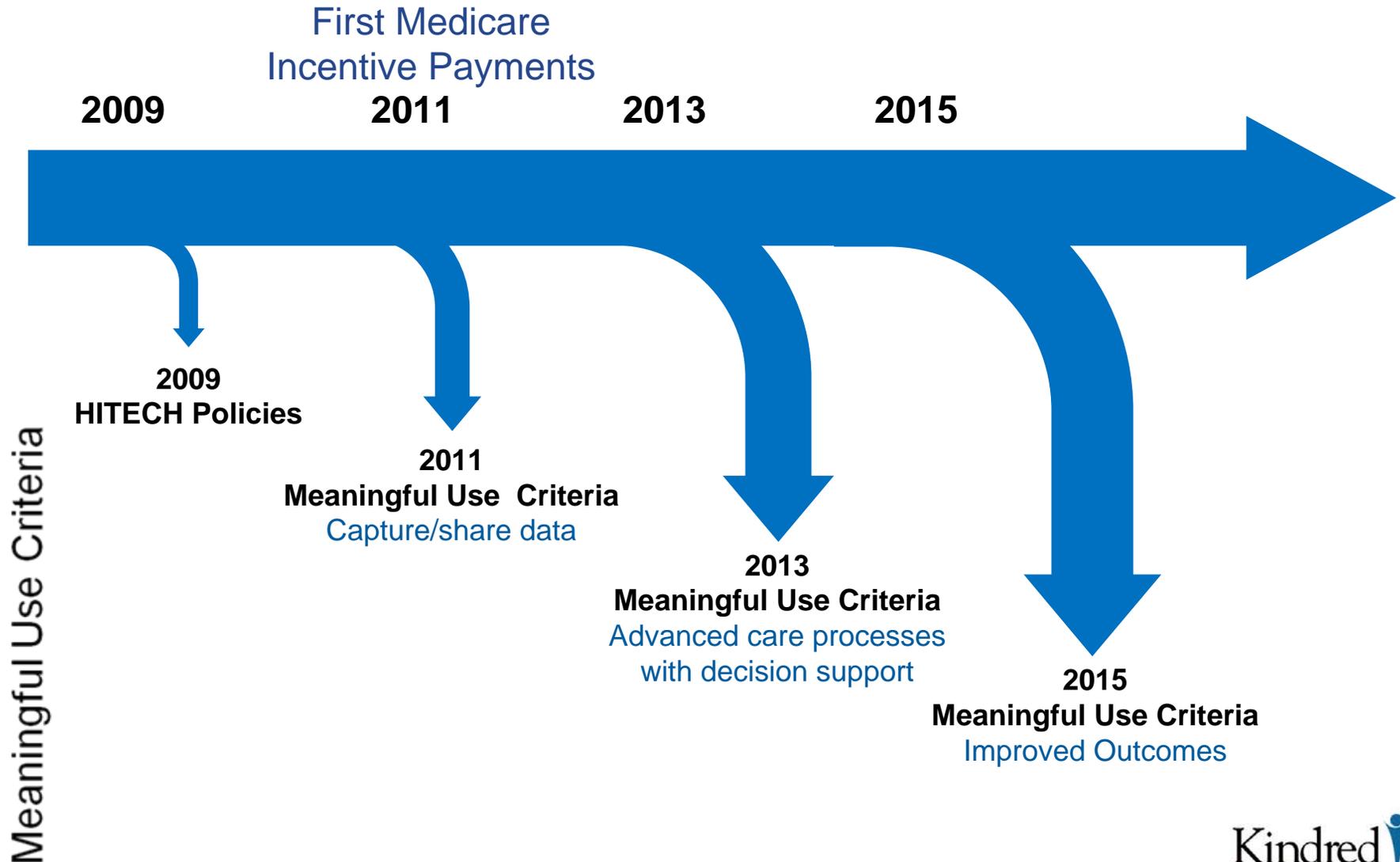
HIT Policy Committee

- Recommendations to the National Coordinator
 - A policy framework for the development and adoption of a nationwide health IT infrastructure
 - The areas in which standards, implementation specifications, and certification criteria are needed

HIT Standards Committee

- Recommendations to the National Coordinator
 - Standards
 - Implementation specifications
 - Certification criteria

HIT Policy Committee: Timeline for Meaningful Use



Medicare Incentive Payment Timelines

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Eligible Professionals / Individual Physicians										
Incentive Payment Window	Starting 1/1/2011									
Maximum Payment (5 years starting 2011)										
Maximum Payment (5 years starting 2012)										
Other than Max Payment										
Medicare fee schedule adjustment for non-use (additional rules for Medicaid providers)					1% reduction	2% reduction	3% reduction	3-5% reduc.	max 5% reduc.	
Hospitals										
Incentive Payment Window	Starting 10/1/2010									
Maximum Payment (4 years starting FY 2011)										
Maximum Payment (4 years starting FY 2012)										
Maximum Payment (4 years starting FY 2013)										
Other than Max Payment										
Market basket adjustment for non-use (alternative rules for Critical Access Hospitals) (additional rules for Medicaid providers)					25% reduction	50% reduction	75% reduction			
Meaningful Use										
2011 Criteria										
2013 Criteria										
2015 Criteria										

Policy Committee recommended an “adoption year” approach to apply criteria based when provider first receives incentives. Also recommended maximum flexibility in interpreting the adoption year (allow end-of-year adoption to count as meeting that year’s payment levels).

CMS will issue regulations in December 2009.

HIT Policy Committee: Certification, Adoption and Work Force

- Certification Process Recommendations
 - Definition of criteria separated from testing
 - Accreditation body to certify certifiers (testers)
 - One or more certification bodies
 - Restrict certification criteria to specifically address meaningful use
 - Support commercial, open-source and self-developed systems
 - Transition from prior certification process (CCHIT) with focused “gap” certification
- Adoption and Work Force
 - To be addressed once certification process recommendations for 2009 are completed

HIT Policy Committee: Health Information Exchange

- Provided overall framework for health information exchange (as a verb)
- Asked to provide initial recommendations on health information exchanges (as a noun)
- Draft recommendations expected in August 2009

HIT Policy Committee: Coordination with HIT Standards Committee

- Accepts policy recommendations from the Policy Committee
- Defines the standards framework
- Identifies specific standards
- Identifies gaps in standards that need to be resolved
- ONC asking for accelerated timeline on standards adoption