



Carefx Response to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is an economic stimulus package enacted by the 111th United States Congress and signed into law by President Barack Obama on February 17, 2009.

The Act is an unprecedented effort to jumpstart the American economy, save and create millions of jobs, and address long-neglected challenges, one of which is the healthcare system. From a total \$787 billion, ARRA allocates \$59 billion for the broader category of healthcare with approximately \$19 billion for health information technology.



Qualifying for ARRA Incentive Payments

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 will help providers make the necessary investments in health information technology to improve patient outcomes and safety, while reducing healthcare costs. ARRA incentive payments will begin as early as October 1, 2010 and are intended to remove cost as one of the major barriers to adoption of electronic health records. However, cost isn't the only barrier to widespread deployment of EHR technology. Disruption to clinician workflow and limited functionality of the software are also significant contributors to lack of clinician acceptance.

Carefx Can Assist Healthcare Organizations Overcome the Challenges of EMR Adoption

Simply implementing an EMR will not be enough to qualify for incentive payments. Carefx can help healthcare organizations with the many challenges associated with implementing clinical information systems:

<i>HCO Challenge</i>	<i>Carefx Solution</i>
Challenge: Clinicians use myriad clinical systems to access patient information in the course of a day and must cope with different navigational frameworks, information sets, presentation formats, and content, each with its own access sign-on procedures. The learning curve can be steep and frustrating to clinicians. At best, these systems are not used effectively to their maximum potential. At worse, clinicians refuse to use them.	Solution: At the core of FusionFx is context and workflow automation, which simplifies multistep processes inherent in most clinical applications (a major inhibitor of adoption by clinicians). Secure access to electronic health records is provided by fxIdentity SSO and Provisioning, which ensures compliance with privacy and security requirements without burdening clinicians.
Challenge: Once the definition of certified EMR is resolved by the federal government, HCOs that have not yet implemented a certified EMR will need to act swiftly to realize the full benefit of the incentive payments.	Solution: Rapid deployment enables Carefx customers to begin demonstrating meaningful use of EHR technology in time to maximize incentive payments, which start October 1, 2010
Challenge: Will clinicians actually use the new EMR? If adoption is poor, will that disqualify the HCO from receiving incentive payments?	Solution: An integrated, role-based view of aggregated patient data will improve clinical workflows, staff retention, staff productivity, and access to patient information. In turn, this will lead to better care quality, patient safety, and resource management challenges. The Fusionfx Solution Suite improves clinical workflow through effective context and identity management, along with workflow automation. Furthermore, fxCompliance Utilization Reporting provides the tools to enable HCOs to monitor system usage and identify areas of opportunity for increasing active health information exchange.



Carefx Can Help Demonstrate Meaningful Use of EHR Technology

The definition of meaningful use has yet to be determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services. We do know that this definition will include "the electronic exchange of health information to improve the quality of health care, such as promoting care coordination" and "clinical quality measures" (also to be defined by the Secretary).

<i>HCO Challenge</i>	<i>Carefx Solution</i>
Challenge: Hospitals continue to struggle to integrate relevant data from disparate source systems due to a diversity of software suppliers, versions and technical architectures.	Solution: Fusionfx, with its library of 100s of connectors, enables customers to leverage existing technology investments and quickly connect disparate clinical systems across the enterprise to establish interoperability and exchange health information securely.
Challenge: Healthcare organizations must be prepared for the definition of meaningful use to evolve over time. The language is clear in the Stimulus Bill: "The Secretary shall seek to improve the use of electronic health records and health care quality over time by requiring more stringent measures of meaningful use."	Solution: Fusionfx's flexible architecture and composite applications enable HCOs to quickly add functionality to respond to the fluid requirements of ARRA, so they can continue to qualify in time to receive the maximum incentive payments and avoid paying penalties. HCOs can demonstrate measurement of improved patient outcomes and patient safety through use of fxClinical Quality Measure Dashboard.

Four Critical Principles for Selecting the Right Solution

Whether selecting your first EMR application or a new EMR, or a solution to connect your disparate clinical information exchanges, four principles are critical to successfully selecting the right solution for your healthcare organization:

- » **Agility** – Is the vendor agile enough to respond to your timelines? Is the architecture flexible to accommodate changes to business and clinical requirements as the detailed requirements for qualifying for ARRA incentive payments unfold.
- » **Interoperability** – Is the solution based on a service oriented architecture and in compliance with industry accepted standards.
- » **Workflow / Adoption** – Does the solution promote more efficient clinician workflows? Does it support how they work today, to help drive adoption tomorrow?
- » **Meaningful Use** – The Holy Grail of ARRA and implementing EHR technology, meaningful use builds off the first three principles. Without them, HCOs will be challenged to demonstrate meaningful use of certified EHR technology that enables health information exchange and improves patient outcomes and patient safety.

