



March 15, 2010 – The Alliance for Nursing Informatics (ANI) is a collaboration of organizations that enables a unified voice for nursing informatics. Today this voice was demonstrated in the prepared responses to the Department of Health and Human Services on: *Medicare and Medicaid Programs: Electronic Health Record Incentive Program Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) (Document ID CMS-2009-0117-0002)* and the *Health Information Technology: Initial Set of Standards, Implementation Specifications, and Certification Criteria for Electronic Health Record Technology Interim Final Rule (IFR) (Document ID HHS-OS-2010-0001-0002)*.

Joyce Sensmeier MS, RN-BC, CPHIMS, FHIMSS, ANI Co-chair stated “we are pleased to provide the nursing voice to the dialogue about meaningful use of electronic health record systems. The inclusion of nurses as well as other interdisciplinary healthcare partners in the definition of ‘meaningful use’ and quality measures will ensure the design and implementation of these systems meet the needs of healthcare professionals and the patients they serve.”

The ANI response to the proposed rules has been developed in collaboration with leadership from AMIA-NIWG and ANIA-CARING. Bonnie Westra, PhD, RN, ANI Co-chair stated “we applaud the efforts of these groups and their leaders to guide the development of these responses and we look forward to our continued collaboration.”

The ANI responses identified the following key considerations:

Key Considerations:

1. Ensure there is ample emphasis on the development of cognitive support to promote optimal clinician decisions.
2. Expand the definition of “meaningful user” to encompass support of all healthcare professionals in an integrated healthcare community including nurses (RNs), advance practice registered nurses (APRNs), and other clinicians as well as expanding sites to include patient centered care delivered by interdisciplinary teams.
3. Consider industry trends, research and experience in adequately identifying criteria for Meaningful Use to improve quality, safety, efficiency and reduce health disparities.
4. Enhance programs and funding availability for the integration of informatics competencies and patient education offerings to effectively design and implement systems to support meaningful use of patient centered EHRs.
5. Recognize the vital role of nursing practice as nurses are integral to improved care coordination.
6. Expand the sharing of data from multiple sources to improve population and public health to assure adequate privacy and security protections for personal health information.



7. Reduce the number of criteria for certification to focus on integration of requirements to support efforts to improve health and safety.

ANI Meaningful Use NPRM response:

<http://www.himss.org/handouts/ANIResponsetoNPRMEHRIncentiveProgram-MeaningfulUseFINAL.pdf>

ANI Standards, Implementation Specifications, and Certification Criteria IFR' response:

<http://www.himss.org/handouts/ANIResponsetoIFRCertificationCriteriaFINAL.pdf>

About ANI

[ANI](#), cosponsored by [AMIA](#) and [HIMSS](#), represents more than 5,000 nurse informaticists and brings together 25 distinct nursing informatics groups in the United States. ANI crosses academia, practice, industry, and nursing specialty boundaries and works in collaboration with the nearly 3 million nurses in practice today.