



December 1, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, S-230
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, S-221
Washington D.C. 20510

RE: 21st Century Cures Act

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Reid:

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,

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
The Honorable Harry Reid
December 1, 2016
Page 2

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 RHEUMATOLOGY
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS
AMERICAN GASTROENTEROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
AMERICAN JOINT REPLACEMENT REGISTRY
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS/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

The Honorable Mitch McConnell

The Honorable Harry Reid

December 1, 2016

Page 3

cc: The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chairman, Senate HELP Committee
The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member, Senate HELP Committee
The Honorable Orrin Hatch, Chairman, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Ron Wyden, Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee