

Health Information Technology Allocated \$19B in Economic Stimulus Package

According to House Ways and Means, health information technology (IT) funding included in the stimulus package will be used to establish standards, payment incentives and privacy protections to encourage the widespread adoption of healthcare IT.

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT will receive \$2 billion in immediate, discretionary funding as part of the \$19 billion allocated for healthcare IT in the economic stimulus package.

Health IT allows comprehensive management of medical information and its secure exchange between healthcare consumers and providers. Broad use of health IT will:

- Improve healthcare quality;
- Prevent medical errors;
- Reduce healthcare costs;
- Increase administrative efficiencies;
- Decrease paperwork; and
- Expand access to affordable care.

Many health care providers see this as their opportunity to make the much needed technology investments that they may have been putting off for some time.

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