



Evan Steele
CEO
SRS soft
95 Chestnut Ridge Road
Montvale, NJ 07645

SEP 28 2009

Dear Mr. Steele:

Thank you for your letter and for providing the voice of the physician with regard to meaningful use of electronic health records included in your petition. The Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius has asked that I respond to your letter.

The HIT Policy Committee is committed to seeking out input from frontline physicians to inform the recommendations the Committee makes to me on meaningful use, certification, and other key topics that impact health information technology and health information exchange. Also, the Department of Health and Human Services is committed to gathering input from frontline physicians as we develop regulations and policies around meaningful use and certification of electronic health records.

I anticipate an upcoming opportunity for physicians, particularly those in small practices, to provide their perspective to the HIT Policy Committee. Please refer our website at <http://healthit.hhs.gov> to learn about this opportunity in the next several weeks. Also, meaningful use will be defined through regulations from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. A notice of proposed rulemaking will be released in December 2009, and there will be a 60-day public comment period that follows.

Thank you again for providing the voice of the physician in your petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Blumenthal".

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator
Office of the National Coordinator for
Health Information Technology