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By: [Joshua J. Freemire](#)

Though many providers are currently focused on achieving “Meaningful Use” of certified electronic health record technology, the federal government, in conjunction with private partners and the HIT Policy Committee, is planning for the next five years of electronic health record technology and implementation. The government’s explanation of its strategy is published as the Health IT Strategic Plan. The HITECH Act requires that the plan be revised, and the revised plan, describing government goals and strategies through 2015, is available for public comment through May 6, 2011. Providers who wish to review or comment on the Plan or its associated materials may do so [through this website](#).

Ober Kaler’s Comments

It can be tempting for providers to concentrate exclusively on the programs and policies that will result in payment or operational changes right now. Commenting on the HIT Strategic Plan, however, offers forward thinking providers the opportunity to be heard regarding the government’s plans for future plans and programs – plans and programs that may mean additional incentive programs (or payment reductions) in the future. **Comments are due by May 6, 2011.**

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