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Health Information Standards Committee Seeks Comments on EHR Certification Program for Stage 2 of Meaningful Use

By: [James B. Wieland](#) and [Joshua J. Freemire](#)

If you or your organization were involved with seeking certification for a particular Electronic Health Record (EHR) technology under the government's temporary certification program, now is your chance to comment on the successes (or failures) of that program. The Health Information Standards Committee (HISC) is accepting comments on the temporary certification **program through 5 p.m. on June 17, 2011.**

Every provider participating in the government's EHR Incentive Program must demonstrate that it is meaningfully using "Certified EHR Technology." Whether a provider is meaningfully using its software is addressed by CMS's Meaningful Use rules. Whether a particular technology is "certified" however, depends on whether it has received certification from an accredited certifying entity according to the provisions of the Temporary Certification Program described in rules issued by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC). Many providers that sought to have their own in-house technology certified dealt directly with the ONC or one of its designated organizations to receive Stage 1 certification. If you were not involved, you can read more about the Temporary Certification Program at the [ONC's dedicated website](#).

HISC, through an announcement on the Federal Advisory Committee's Blog, which can be found on the ONC's website, has encouraged providers and other interested parties to file their comments on the process in one of two alternate ways. First, comments may be posted electronically to the blog using the form provided in the [detailed blog post](#). Prospective commenters may also download a copy of the form, fill it out, and email it to ONC.request@HHS.gov. Emails should

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include the subject line "Implementation WG Comments" to ensure they are properly routed.

Ober|Kaler's Comments

Providers or others that were unhappy or frustrated by the certification process should act now to increase the likelihood that their suggestions are taken into account by the ONC prior to Stage 2.