

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET ADDRESSES USE and DISCLOSURE of HEATH INFORMATION

President Obama's proposed budget for 2014 contains numerous provisions that directly impact the collection, creation, and use of health information. These health-related provisions, highlighted below, invest in programs and services designed to improve access, quality and efficiency across all federal health care programs in part through enhanced exchange of health information to better inform providers, consumers, and payers about care delivery and payment.

- Provides \$40M to modernize the CDC's surveillance technology to track infectious disease.
- Increases funding for the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) by \$12M to allow the CDC to reduce healthcare-associated infections in more than 1,800 facilities.
- Expands the scope of how Qualified Entities can use Medicare data beyond performance measurement, including for fraud prevention and value-added analysis for physicians.
- Allocates \$26M to the AHRQ health information technology research portfolio to support work to advance EHR technology and standards; \$460M for home telehealth funding to Veteran's Affairs; and \$136M to allow the VA to convert paper [medical] documents to electronic records.
- Supports policies to encourage electronic reporting of laboratory results in Medicare.
- Calls for creation of an electronic Medicare claims ordering system to validate that a service was medically necessary or if the patient has seen a practitioner.
- Requires states to monitor high prescribers and utilizers of prescriptions drugs within the Medicaid program.
- Increases funding by \$59M for AHRQ's patient-centered health research, while decreasing funding in other research areas, including patient safety (\$3M), prevention and care management (\$7M) and health care value and research innovation (\$20M).
- Consolidates the Medicaid Eligibility Quality Control and Medicaid Payment Error Rate Measurement program into one streamlined audit program to alleviate state program integrity reporting requirements.
- Provides \$55M in grants to improve the submission of state criminal and mental health records to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

The budget, released on April 10, 2013 is available as a PDF here (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2014/assets/budget.pdf>). The majority of the health-related provisions in the budget are specific to the Department of Health and Human Services; HHS' overview of its portion of the budget, and a discussion of how the allocated funds will be used is available as a PDF here (<http://www.hhs.gov/budget/fy2014/fy-2014-budget-in-brief.pdf>).