

THERE IS NO HEALTH WITHOUT MENTAL HEALTH

Psychiatric hospitals and other organizations providing mental health and addiction treatment are NOT currently eligible for Medicare/Medicaid health information technology incentive payments.



Support funding for health information technology for mental health and substance abuse treatment providers.

What's at stake:

- As we transform healthcare, **coordination of care requires the professionals who treat both mind and body to have equal access to health information technology (HIT)**. Without equal access, medical information is incomplete.
- Health IT **improves efficiency** and **reduces costs** by avoiding duplication.
- Knowing a person's drug-use history (including use of psychotropic medications) can help **avert deadly drug interactions**.

Background:

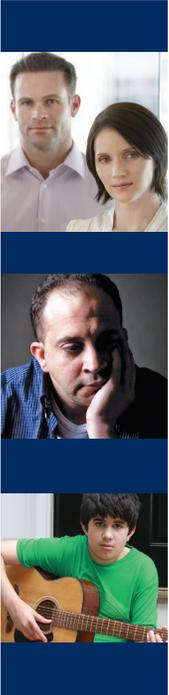
- **Psychiatric hospitals and other organizations providing mental health and addiction treatment are NOT currently eligible for incentive payments.** In the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* doctors and general hospitals received funding for health information technology (IT), which includes funding for investments and incentives offered through the Medicare and Medicaid programs to help them adopt health IT systems. The Medicare and Medicaid incentive payments only apply to general hospitals paid under the DRG system and physicians.

continued

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Support funding for health information technology.

Background: *continued*



- **Psychiatric hospitals and residential treatment centers are critical parts of the overall healthcare delivery system**, and these organizations have begun to implement health IT to help improve the delivery of behavioral health care and to better coordinate with overall health care. Also, these facilities treat a high proportion of Medicare and Medicaid patients.
- **HIT will enable behavioral health and substance abuse providers to effectively coordinate care** across mental health and substance abuse service systems, primary care entities, and specialty medicine.
- Several bills have been introduced that would extend health IT incentives to behavioral health (**S.1517**, the *Behavioral Health Information Technology Act*; **S.1685**, the *Behavioral Health IT Coordination Act*; and **H.R.2957**, the *Behavioral Health Information Technology Act of 2013*). Health IT incentives are also included in a comprehensive mental health reform bill (**H.R.3717**, the *Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act*).