

CLIENT ALERT: JULY 15, 2010

**HHS RELEASES TWO LONG AWAITED HEALTHCARE RULES:
“MEANINGFUL USE” OF EMR SYSTEMS, AND PRIVACY, SECURITY AND
ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS IMPLEMENTING HITECH**

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued the following two important rules this week impacting healthcare providers:

➤ Final “Meaningful Use” Rules

On July 13, 2010, HHS’ Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services released final rules on “meaningful use” of electronic health records. The rules specify the criteria that healthcare providers must meet in order to obtain incentive support payments.

The final rules can be located at:

http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2010-17207_PI.pdf

➤ Proposed HITECH Rules

On July 14, 2010, HHS’ Office of Civil Rights published its long awaited proposed rules on the privacy, security and enforcement provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) implementing changes as required by Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act of 2009 (HITECH).

HHS is accepting comments on the proposed regulations that are submitted on or before September 13, 2010.

A copy of the proposed rules is available at the following link:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-16718.pdf>

HHS has indicated that covered entities and business associates will have six months to comply with most of the provisions after the final rules are published.
