

ILLINOIS STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY

**Resolution 02.2019-29
(A-19)**

Introduced by: John V. Prunskis, M.D., F.I.P.P., ISMS Member

Subject: End the Government Mandated Use of the Electronic Health Record (EHR)

Referred to: Medical Legal Council

1 Whereas, the administrative burden of using the Electronic Health Record (EHR)
2 contributes significantly to physician burnout, affecting the capacity to manage the
3 complexity of patient care; and
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5 Whereas, recent studies have identified a link between EHR usage and burnout
6 among physicians; and
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8 Whereas, EHRs do not contribute to the patient care continuum, EHR is meant
9 to operate as a mechanism for increasing billing potential; and
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11 Whereas, EHR-generated advisories that are misleading or inappropriate could
12 disrupt patient care and confuse physicians; and
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14 Whereas, increasing administrative burdens has led to a lack of sufficient time
15 for physicians to spend with patients to conduct assessments and determine optimal
16 treatment plans; and
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18 Whereas, government mandated use of EHR software systems slow and impairs
19 users (physicians) making their work markedly less efficient and accurate; and
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21 Whereas, there has been a 24% increase in physician suicide rates since 1999,
22 this increase coincides alongside the healthcare industry’s increased adoption of EHR;
23 therefore, be it
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25 RESOLVED, that the federal government immediately stop underwriting and
26 financially supporting the failing EHR system; and be it further
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28 RESOLVED, that the Illinois State Medical Society advocate for the redesign of EHR
29 systems to better reflect the realistic needs of patient care; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to the American Medical
2 Association for adoption.

References:

1. HHS Pain Management Best Practices Inter-Agency Task Force. Draft Task Force Report of Pain Management Best Practices: Gaps, Inconsistences and Recommendations.
2. Beckers ASC Review <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/ehrs/7-specialites-with-the-most-ehr-related-stress.html>
3. Ronald B. Sterling, MBA, CPA. New Malpractice Risks in Your EHR. <https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/905629>

Fiscal Note:

N/A

Existing ISMS policy related to this issue:

The decision to purchase electronic medical record (EMR) technology should be voluntary and not mandatory; and for physicians who purchase EMR technology and/or updates not reimbursed by an insurance plan, the federal government should provide a tax credit for the cost of the purchase. (HOD 2007; Reaffirmed 2017)

It is the policy of ISMS to champion the development of an “Employed Physician’s Bill of Rights;” which calls for the following ... ‘that physicians should not be solely responsible for data entry, coding and management of the use of electronic medical record systems’ (HOD 2017)

It is ISMS policy that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' proposed "meaningful use" criteria should be changed to lessen the burden on physicians in any proposals intended to support implementation of electronic medical records. (HOD 2010; Reaffirmed 2017)