

## Government Rules Affect us All

### A Note from Vince Stein, Director of AACC Government Affairs



On March 30th, the Department of Health and Human Services

(HHS) published two proposed rules in the Federal Register that advance its mission to create a national health information technology (IT) infrastructure. The first document is a proposed rule outlining Stage 3 of its Meaningful Use program (the rules for stages one and two have already been finalized), which defines what health IT requirements providers need to meet to receive higher Medicare payments. The second document describes the criteria certifying bodies must adopt to ensure providers are in compliance with Medicare IT interoperability requirements.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) initiated the Meaningful Use program in 2010 to promote the adoption of electronic health records (EHRs) among health providers. CMS is now seeking input on the Stage 3 requirements:

[http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/Downloads/Stage3\\_Rule.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/Downloads/Stage3_Rule.pdf)

that providers will be expected to meet.

One goal of interest to laboratories will be a criterion that participating providers record 60 percent of their laboratory orders electronically. Once finalized, these changes are expected to take effect in 2017 or 2018. The agency is accepting public comments through May 29, 2015.

In 2011, CMS published its first Edition of Health IT Certification Criteria, which defined for certifying bodies what technical capabilities and standards healthcare providers needed to meet to comply with the meaningful use requirements. CMS released an updated version in 2014 and is now proposing a newer document for 2015 <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-03-30/pdf/2015-06612.pdf>. The document also addresses a number of issues that will be of interest to clinical laboratories, such as the format for reporting data and the terminology used in reporting test results.

#### TO GET INVOLVED:

**HHS is accepting comments on this proposal through May 29th as well. Please contact Vince Stine, PhD, Director of AACC Government Affairs, if you have any questions.** Email: [vsstine@aacc.org](mailto:vsstine@aacc.org)

## Annual Meeting Activities

### Informatics Division Meeting

Date: Tuesday 28 July 2015

Time: 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Location: Hyatt Regency, Marietta Room

*All Division Members are invited and requested to attend. Please respond to the poll in the Artery Informatics Division Forum so we can get a count for lunch.*

### Joint Mixer

Pediatric Maternal-Fetal Division, Clinical Translational Science, Industry and Informatics Division Joint Mixer

Date: Sunday, 26 July 2015

Time: 7:30pm – 9:00pm

Location: Hyatt Regency Embassy C/D

*Come and socialize!*

## Annual Meeting Activities (cont.)

### Joint Scientific Session at LVDD Int'l Lipoprotein Standardization Forum

Date: Tuesday 28 July 2015

Time: 6:00-9:00pm

Location: Atlanta Marriott Marquis

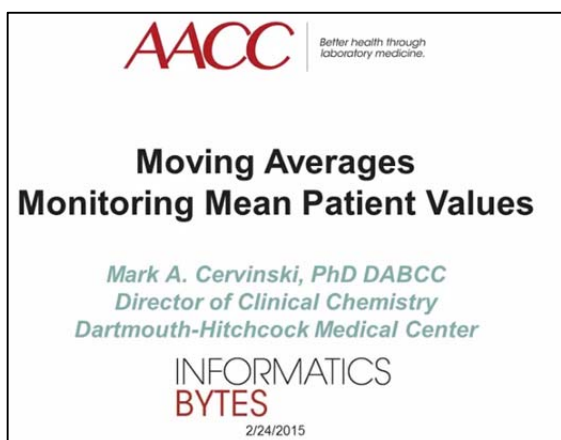
*NOTE: This is a ticketed dinner/speaker event. Refer to Sponsored Special Events pages in the AACC 2015 Annual Meeting Registration Guide (p. 77) for details on how to register.*

## Informatics Division Education

### Have you seen Bytes?

Bytes are brief, practical education videos provided to Division members. They are posted online in the AACC Artery within the Resource Center of the Informatics Division group.

In this first edition of Bytes Mark Cervinski provides a very informative video on the application and interpretation moving averages. Bytes is a special benefit available only to Division members.



Do you have any topic suggestions for upcoming editions of Bytes? Let us know by leaving a comment under the video in the AACC Artery.

## Informatics Division Officers for 2015

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