



April 30, 2010

Dr. John Halamka
Chairman,
Health Information Technology Standards Panel
Chief Information Officer,
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
1135 Tremont Street, 6th Floor
Boston, MA 02120


Dear Dr. ~~Halamka~~:

For nearly five years, the Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel (HITSP) has worked diligently to advance the widespread interoperability and adoption of electronic health records. The Panel's efforts have resulted in a comprehensive and informative set of products that forms a strong foundation for future standards harmonization activities.

We wish to extend our deepest gratitude to the hundreds of volunteers who contributed not only their knowledge and experience but also tens of thousands of hours in support of this initiative. In particular, we want to acknowledge their efforts over the past year in support of the work of the HIT Standards Committee and the development of the Interim Final Rule. Without your commitment, the excellent progress that has been made in the evolution of our nation's health information infrastructure would not have been possible.

As we build on this solid foundation, we continue to need your energy, your commitment, your constructive criticism, your engagement in the emerging processes, and your partnership in improving the delivery and quality of care for all Americans. We hope we can count on your continued involvement and that we can work together to extend that foundation to meet the needs of health reform

With best regards,



David Blumenthal, MD, MPP

*Of course, for you there is no rest -
thanks*