

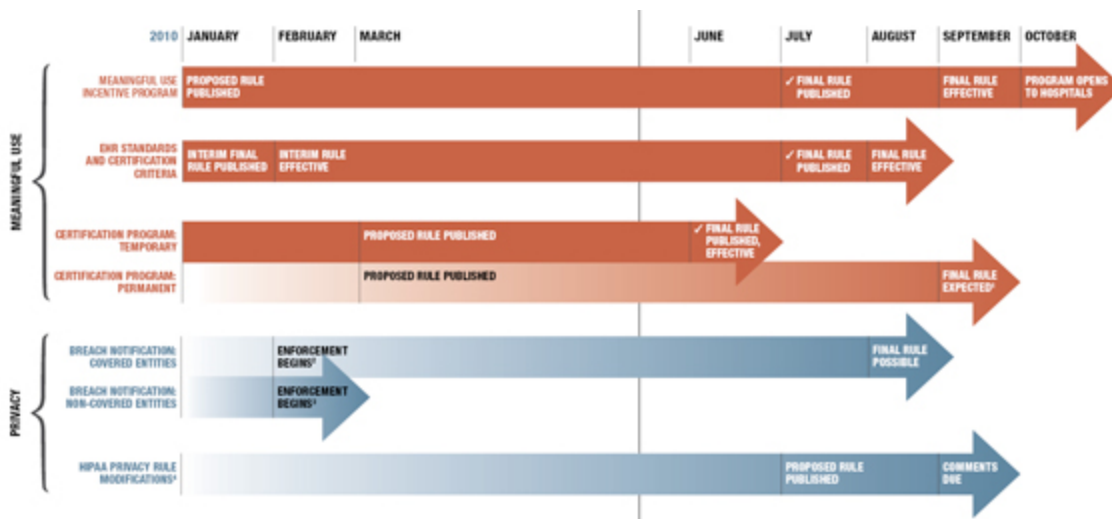
ARRA Timeline

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ARRA arrived with a bang in February 2009, but the regulations enabling the law's healthcare provisions have inched forward since then. Much of the responsibility for drafting regulation fell to the Department of Health and Human Services, which had a tall order to fill within deadlines mandated by the law.

HHS has used a series of proposed rules, interim rules, public comments, and committee recommendations to put forward proposals and gain industry response. In an attempt to juggle speed with consideration, HHS has in some cases made interim rules effective even before public comment periods closed or final rules have been issued. Keeping the related regulations and their status straight has been a challenge in itself.

This summer provided the blockbuster release, publication of the final rule on stage 1 of the meaningful use EHR incentive program.



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1. Program begins January 2012
2. Interim final rule published August 2009
3. Final rule published August 2009
4. Related to provisions on consumer access, restrictions of disclosure, and restrictions on marketing and fund-raising activities (guidance on accounting of disclosure provisions to be published separately)

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