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Survey: Hospital CIOs concerned about meeting 'meaningful use' deadline

Eight in 10 hospital chief information officers surveyed by PricewaterhouseCoopers' Health Research Institute said they are concerned or very concerned they will not be able to demonstrate "meaningful use" of electronic health records within the federally established deadline of 2015. "Without a set of final rules in place, lack of clarity around certain criteria and reporting requirements has left some CIOs at an impasse," the survey report states. "Fueling the concern are availability of skilled IT resources, infrastructure requirements, vendor readiness, and effecting behavioral change across the organization. More than one-third of CIOs are concerned or very concerned about vendor readiness overall. In particular, 44% of CIOs said their HIE vendors are not prepared for MU implementation or are undecided." The findings are based on a survey of 120 members of the College of Healthcare Information Management Executives. Last month, 53 organizations representing hospitals, physicians and other providers, including the AHA, called on CMS to revise its proposed rule defining "meaningful use" of EHRs. A final rule is expected out soon.