

# Joshua Seidman on Meaningful Use in Healthcare

ID: 05V110608122816497

Chances are when you hear a discussion about healthcare reform, the words “meaningful use” comes up. What do they really mean? In this video Josh Seidman provides his definition and talks about how meaningful use of health IT can reduce disparities.



## RECORDED ON

May 23, 2012

## SOURCE

5min.com

## CATEGORY

Nursing and Health Care

## TAGS

Joshua Seidman on Meaningful Use in Healthcare, health 2.0, Health Care, health it, ICYou.com, meaningful use, healthcare technology, patient empowerment

Title: Joshua Seidman on Meaningful Use in Healthcare

Q: how do you define meaningful use in healthcare?

Joshua Seidman: Meaningful use is about trying to improve health and trying to improve healthcare and it is definitely not about technology so you don't have to talk about health information technology. It is about changing the way that clinicians and patients interact to better manage health so that they can lead healthier lives and make better health decision and have the information they need in order to do that.

Q: How can meaningful use of health IT reduce disparities?

Joshua Seidman: Well we just held a hearing on that last Friday, which people who are interested in weighing in on that question can go to our federal advisory committee blog at [healthit.hhs.gov](http://healthit.hhs.gov). There is a link to the FACA blog, where we are in addition to the public testimony that we accepted, we are also taking in public comment in through that way and that will all be part of the public record. So that is a plug for that and that will be open for a while but it in terms of what we have heard from that, we've heard a lot of things. First of all one of the thing we want to be careful of is if we don't focus on that question if we don't focus on some of the special issues facing underserved populations the meaningful use of health IT by some populations could actually increase disparities and we do not want to do that. We obviously are very focused on that and trying to make sure that doesn't happen. So what we are interested in are what are the examples of using health IT in a meaningful way to create better access to information better access to technology and better access to healthcare. So that's on the access side. We're interested in what kind of technologies can be used to improve health literacy and create other ways of transmitting and explaining information. And we're interested in thinking about different models of using technology to help either overcome or address barriers that might be associated with a mismatch of culture and language because right now there may very well not be a lot of, right now we are seeing situations right now where there might not be a lot of individualization and one of the things we heard a lot at this hearing last Friday is that one size doesn't fit all and we have to address that.

Q: What role does the patient play in the definition of meaningful use?

Joshua Seidman: When the Health IT Policy Committee provided its recommendations to HHS they identified five health outcome priorities and one of those is around engaging patients and families. So we have a domain of meaningful use; one of the five domains is patient family engagement. There will be some criteria when the final rules release for stage one meaningful use, but we've actually already started planning around stage two and on April 20th we held a co-advisory committee hearing on thinking about patient engagement for stage one stage two. We heard a lot of things around, from the people who testified and also from our federal advisory committee blog, we heard a lot of things about the incorporation of patient generated data into electronic health records that could be both through survey, patients using portals and kiosks and so forth to enter in information. It could also be through biometrics and other remote monitoring. We heard a lot about getting data in a useable form, human readable and computer readable formats, getting it in real time into the hands of patients to drive changes. We heard about thinking about new technologies, sort of related to what I was saying about disparities, to really come up with ways of individualizing and personalizing health information so that it is more understandable and more usable by a wider range of audiences.

Q: What health IT improvements can patients expect to see within the next few years?

Joshua Seidman: Patients should be able to get I would think within the next five years we'd see that patients would have real time access to data; ways of putting that data into context so they can use it. We would see patients having their immunizations for their families in one place we would see that they could have access at any time. We can envision in five years that we would have people being able to update and renew prescriptions online. Get that information automatically to their pharmacies and then taking care of a lot of business that they need to take care of to manage their health and the health of their families online.

Q: Health 2.0 Impressions?

Joshua Seidman: I have to say I am thrilled to be at this conference having been involved with a lot of Health 2.0 conferences before I joined the federal government. It is really great to be back in this community and to see really robust collaboration that's going on between the public and private sectors in this space. I think that we are going to see a lot of innovation that comes out of that. We are already seeing some in terms of the data liberation movement, and then the other things that we are doing over in ONC and trying to build this regional extension program to really drive meaningful use in all parts of the country.