

# PATIENTS OVER PAPERWORK



## BACKGROUND

Physician compliance with health information technology (HIT) regulatory requirements, including those required by the Quality Payment Program (QPP) and other interoperability programs, requires significant investment of both physician time and resources. According to a 2017 study\*, nearly two-thirds of respondents reported that administrative duties negatively affect their ability to deliver high-quality care. In addition, the physician is often at the mercy of the HIT vendor and is held accountable if requirements are not fulfilled.

## ASTRO urges Congress to use its legislative and oversight authority to:

- Apply pressure on HIT vendors to not shift the burden onto radiation oncologists or other clinicians for costs associated with added functionality to comply with federal HIT requirements. **These unfunded mandates undercut the potential benefits of HIT and disproportionately hurt small and rural cancer clinics.**
- Mandate HIT vendors comply with the requirements set forth in the QPP and other interoperability programs. **Radiation oncologists and other physicians should not be held accountable for the lack of interoperability.**
- **Harmonize reporting requirements across federally funded programs.** Having one set of submission requirements, data elements and electronic submission portals would significantly reduce burden on those clinicians required to report across multiple programs. Reforms would allow radiation oncologists to focus more on patient care.

\* Rao, Sandhya K. MD; Kimball, Alexa B. MD, MPH; Lehrhoff, Sara R. MS; Hidrue, Michael K. PhD; Colton, Deborah G. MSW; Ferris, Timothy G. MD, MPH; Torchiana, David F. MD, *The Impact of Administrative Burden on Academic Physicians: Results of a Hospital-Wide Physician Survey*. Academic Medicine: February 2017 - Volume 92 - Issue 2 - p 237-243.