

# HITECH Act: Significant Changes to HIPAA Privacy Rule and Patient Privacy Rights

March 25, 2009

On February 17, 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law the \$787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 ("ARRA") in an effort to stimulate the ailing U.S. economy. Title XIII of ARRA, the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act ("HITECH Act"), sets forth sweeping changes to the scope and applicability of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA") Privacy and Security Rules. The HITECH Act also creates new breach notification requirements for covered entities and business associates. While most provisions of the HITECH Act will take effect on February 17, 2010 (one year after the enactment of ARRA), some provisions will take effect only after implementing regulations are issued. *To view the HITECH Act, please click on the PDF icon above.*

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