EHR Implementation Hits 60 Percent in Texas
The percentage of respondents who currently use an EHR continues to rise (60 percent, up from 43 percent in 2009). Of the 18 percent of respondents with no plans to implement an EHR, 67 percent report prohibitive cost as the reason. Another reason physicians list for not planning to implement an EHR is having no decisionmaking authority in their practice. Not surprisingly, older physicians are more likely to report nearing retirement as a reason for not planning to implement an EHR.

Plans to Implement an EHR
Among physicians who want to implement an EHR, the majority plan to do so in the next year (72 percent).

Qualified for EHR Incentive Payments
Forty-one percent of physicians report they qualified for stimulus incentives and either received them already or are expecting them. A large minority of physicians don’t know if their practice qualified for the stimulus incentives (42 percent). This is most likely because these physicians are not involved in practice management decisions.

EHR Status by Physician Age

Summary
The current survey is a benchmark of physician needs and experiences with EHRs. This survey is a follow-up to surveys conducted in 2009, 2007, and 2005. In April 2012, TMA emailed a survey to 33,808 physicians and residents. By the end of the month, TMA had received responses from 1,733 physicians, for a rate of 5 percent. For a complete report, contact TMA at (800) 880-5720 or go to www.texmed.org/HIT.