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## Federal Economic Stimulus Legislation Broadens HIPAA Health Data Privacy and Security Regulations While Boosting Health IT

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The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the federal economic stimulus legislation that President Obama signed on February 17, 2009, provides over \$22 billion to develop, implement, and promote a new health information technology infrastructure, including nationwide electronic health records, by 2014. To address the privacy and data security challenges presented by an electronic health record system, the new law also mandates significant changes in the health data privacy and security regulations issued under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and extends those regulations directly to contractors and service providers that handle health data. For more on this recent legislation, please see our recent [Email Alert](#).