

Meaningful Use and the Accountable Care Act

The government passed regulations that were enacted regarding access to health care referred to as the Accountable Care Act. The Act is very long and has many components, one of which is referred to as "Meaningful Use". The goal of the Act is to improve quality of care and reduce costs. Surgical Care Specialist was an early adopter of electronic medical records and has successfully achieved the requirements for meaningful use for 2 years and plan to meet or exceed the requirement this year.

In order to improve your access to information, which is part of meaningful use, we have a secure patient portal. This allows you to view a patient summary of all office visits. The information that is required in the summary includes medications, allergies, past medical and social history, diagnosis, tests that were ordered. We are also able to release some lab and x-ray results. Patients can view their next appointment, request prescriptions and view patient statements. Technology is improving rapidly and we will continue to add features to our portal as they become available.