Efforts to improve the quality and value of the US healthcare system can be accelerated through expanded and more meaningful use of health information technology (HIT). The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) authorized payment of up to $44,000 in Medicare incentives, over five years, to eligible physicians if they begin demonstrating meaningful use of a certified electronic health record in 2011 or 2012. The Department of Health and Human Services is currently finalizing rules detailing what physicians and hospitals must do to qualify for incentive payments. Federal incentives for meaningful use of HIT will be much more powerful, to the extent that they are aligned with other private sector initiatives, for improving health care quality, safety and efficiency.

The Health Industry Forum of Brandeis University with National HIT Coordinator David Blumenthal, M.D. will explore specific activities that could be undertaken by health insurance plans, healthcare delivery systems, pharmaceutical, and device companies to support or accelerate meaningful use. The discussion will be moderated by Professor Stuart Altman. A draft agenda is provided below and a list of confirmed participants is attached.

7:30 a.m. Breakfast Buffet
8:00 a.m. Meaningful Use and Opportunities for Private Sector Support
  Introduction: Stuart Altman (5 minutes)
  Opening remarks: David Blumenthal (20 minutes)
8:45 a.m. Health Insurance Activities
  Stakeholder and ONC opening remarks (5 - 10 minutes)
  Group discussion (35 minutes)
9:30 a.m. Break
9:50 a.m. Delivery System Activities
  Stakeholder and ONC opening remarks: (5 - 10 minutes)
  Group discussion (35 minutes)
10:35 a.m. Pharmaceutical Company Activities
  Stakeholder and ONC opening remarks: (5 - 10 minutes)
  Group discussion
11:30 a.m. Lunch and Wrap-up