

## **ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD RESOURCES**

### **EHR Buyers Guide**

To help small practices weigh the benefits of electronic medical records (EMRs) technology, Forrester Research produced a buyer's guide to EMRs for the office-based doctor, with particular emphasis on groups of nine or fewer physicians. This report offers a detailed analysis of the products available from eight EMR vendors, as well as a free interactive tool designed to help buyers customize their assessment according to the individual circumstances of their practice.  
<http://www.chcf.org/documents/ihealth/ForresterEMRBuyersGuideRevise.pdf>

### **Health Information Technology Leadership Panel: Final Report**

<http://ccbh.ehealthinitiative.org/communities/community.aspx?Section=105&Category=142&Document=642>

Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt issued a report titled "Health Information Technology Leadership Panel: Final Report." The report identifies three key imperatives for health information technology

#### Sample Governance Work Plan\_01\_03\_05

<http://ccbh.ehealthinitiative.org/communities/community.aspx?Section=105&Category=142&Document=596>

This document includes the sample governance structure and work plan (activities and timeline).

#### Michigan Presentation

<http://ccbh.ehealthinitiative.org/communities/community.aspx?Section=105&Category=142&Document=595>

### **Sample Request for Vendor Proposals**

#### Sample RFP for EHR Selection

This sample RFP was compiled by the Bureau of Primary Health Care to help community health centers implement electronic health records.

<http://ccbh.ehealthinitiative.org/communities/community.aspx?Section=105&Category=229&Document=238>

In October 2003, MA-SHARE sent this letter to interested parties to apprise them of MedsInfo-ED's status and process to identify potential technology vendors and develop appropriate design specifications.

#### MA-SHARE Request to Tech Vendors for Letters of Intent

<http://ccbh.ehealthinitiative.org/communities/community.aspx?Section=105&Category=229&Document=145>

## **Stark/OIG HIT Donations**

Donations of HIT Under Stark and OIG--Overview and Business Model from HIMSS  
<http://www.himss.org/content/files/HIMSSStarkAnti-KickbackRegulationsGeneralOverview.ppt#34>

## **Industry EHR Efforts**

Health Level Seven (HL-7) EHR Functional Standard

Health Level Seven developed a set of suggested “essential and desirable” functions for an electronic health record within different care settings. Functions will be used and tested in numerous practices and other provider settings over the next two years. The functions will then be refined and sent to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) to become a “standard.” The government may decide to move forward and designate this as a “national standard” much like they will do shortly with their electronic prescribing standard.

[www.hl7.org](http://www.hl7.org)

E-Health Initiative (E-HI)

The eHealth Initiative and Connecting for Health are non-profit organizations whose missions are to drive improvement in the quality, safety, and efficiency of healthcare through information technology. E-Hi created a workgroup for HIT in small and medium-sized practices to:

- Develop practical tools and strategies to implement EHR.
- Stimulate agreement on standards and policies to facilitate the exchange of clinical data—starting with laboratories
- Focus on developing principles related to both standard business practices and contracts to simplify and support the EHR purchasing process.

• [www.ehealthinitiative.org](http://www.ehealthinitiative.org) / [www.connectingforhealth.org](http://www.connectingforhealth.org)

## **Physicians' Electronic Health Record Coalition (PEHRC)**

In 2004, medical organizations, representing more than 500,000 U.S. physicians, created the Physicians' Electronic Health Record Coalition (PEHRC). This coalition will assist physicians acquire and use affordable, standards-based electronic health records and other health information technology to improve quality, enhance patient safety, and increase efficiency. The coalition aims to be the single voice for “organized medicine” in promoting the development and use of EHR, as well as to help focus the market on high-quality and affordable products. MGMA member Charles Willey, MD, represents MGMA on the PEHRC, along with Dr. Jessee and government affairs staff.

[www.pehrc.org](http://www.pehrc.org)

## **Doctors' Office Quality -- Information Technology (DOQ-IT)**

The DOQ-IT project is funded by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and is a two-year demonstration in a small number of states designed to improve quality of services provided to Medicare beneficiaries by promoting the adoption of EHR. Quality measures developed in the project will be electronically reported by participating practices to the QIO Clinical Warehouse who then review, validate, determine practitioner performance and identify opportunities for improvement. This project is focused on the areas of diabetes, heart failure, coronary artery disease, hypertension, osteoarthritis, depression, and preventive care. MGMA is working with DOQ-IT in the state of CO.

[www.doqit.org](http://www.doqit.org)

## **Certification Commission for Health Information Technology (CCHIT)**

The purpose of the Commission is to create an efficient, credible, sustainable mechanism for the certification of healthcare information technology products. The goals of product certification are:

- To reduce the risk of HIT investment by providers
- To ensure interoperability of HIT products with emerging local and national health information infrastructures
- To enhance the availability of HIT incentives from public and private purchasers/payers
- To accelerate the adoption of robust, interoperable HIT throughout the US healthcare system

Current 2007-2008 CCHIT Work Groups

- [EHR Foundation Work Group](#)
- [Network Work Group](#)
- [Ambulatory EHR Work Group](#)
- [Inpatient EHR Work Group](#)
- [Emergency Department EHR Work Group](#)

### **Continuity of Care Record**

The Continuity of Care Record (CCR) is being developed in response to the need to organize and make transportable a set of basic information about a patient's health care that is accessible to clinicians and patients. It is intended to foster and improve continuity of care, reduce medical errors, and ensure a minimum standard of secure health information transportability.

<http://ccbh.ehealthinitiative.org/communities/community.aspx?Section=105&Category=230&Document=514>

### **American Health Information Community**

The American Health Information Community (AHIC) is a federal advisory body, chartered in 2005 to make recommendations to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on how to accelerate the development and adoption of health information technology. AHIC was formed by the Secretary to help advance efforts to achieve President Bush's goal for most Americans to have access to secure electronic health records by 2014.

Plans are now underway to transition the AHIC to a public-private partnership based in the private sector. The AHIC successor will be independent and sustainable and will bring together the best attributes and resources of public and private entities. This new public-private partnership will develop a unified approach to realize an effective, interoperable nationwide health information system that supports the health and well-being of the people of this country. The successor will be designed and ready for initial operation by Spring 2008, with full transition from the AHIC to the successor to be completed by Fall 2008. For more information, please visit the [AHIC Transition](#) page.

Since its formation, the AHIC identified four initial areas with potential for early breakthroughs in the advancement of standards that will lead to interoperability. The AHIC organized four workgroups to pursue recommendations in these areas, and delivered their first set of

recommendations to the Secretary in May of 2006. Three additional workgroups have since been formed to address a wider range of issues, and these workgroups are expected to deliver recommendations to the Secretary in 2007.

The American Health Information Community (AHIC) will begin a new phase of activity to transition AHIC to the private sector. For more information, please visit the [AHIC Transition](#) page.

Learn more about:

- [Breakthrough areas](#)
- [Workgroups](#)
- AHIC Charter ([PDF - 170KB](#))

## **EHR and Labs**

ELINCS: Developing a National Lab Data Standard for EHRs

<http://ccbh.ehealthinitiative.org/communities/community.aspx?Section=105&Category=183&Document=629>

The EHR-Lab Interoperability and Connectivity Standards (ELINCS) project will develop a national standard for the delivery of real-time laboratory results from a lab's information system to an electronic health record.

### **Standards Developing Organizations**

- [Background article on MOU Process](#)
- [American Dental Association](#)
- [Health Level Seven](#)
- [National Council for Prescription Drug Programs](#)
- [National Uniform Billing Committee](#)
- [National Uniform Claim Committee](#)
- [American National Standards Institute](#)

## **Professional Organizations**

### [American Medical Informatics Association](#)

A nonprofit membership organization dedicated to developing and using information technologies to improve health care. AMIA was formed in 1990 by the merger of three organizations — the American Association for Medical Systems and Informatics, the American College of Medical Informatics, and the Symposium on Computer Applications in Medical Care.

### [American Telemedicine Association](#)

A non-profit that seeks to bring together diverse groups from traditional medicine, academic medical centers, technology and telecommunications companies, e-health, medical societies,

government and others to overcome barriers to the advancement of telemedicine through the professional, ethical and equitable improvement in health care delivery.

#### [Association of Medical Directors of Information Systems](#)

A professional organization for physicians interested in and responsible for healthcare information technology.

#### [Center for Health Information and Decision Systems](#)

An academia-led effort at the University of Maryland, with collaboration from industry and government affiliates, that is designed to research, analyze, and recommend solutions to challenges surrounding the introduction and integration of information and decision technologies into the health care system.

#### [Center for Health Transformation](#)

A collaboration of public and private sector leaders dedicated to the creation of a 21st century intelligent health system in which knowledge saves lives and saves money for every American.

#### [Center for Information Technology Leadership](#)

Uncovers and communicates specific financial and clinical values delivered by standardized Healthcare Information Exchange and Interoperability.

#### [Community Health Information Technology Alliance](#)

A member-driven alliance of healthcare and technology organizations, both public and private that advocates marketplace activities and provides leadership to help expand and enhance the use of electronic commerce in the healthcare industry. Since 1999, it has focused on privacy and security of health data and targets the Pacific Northwest's marketplace.

#### [eHealth Initiative](#)

A non-profit affiliated organization that drives improvement in the quality, safety, and efficiency of healthcare through information and information technology. eHI is focused on engaging multiple and diverse stakeholders--including hospitals and other healthcare organizations, clinician groups, employers and purchasers, health plans, healthcare information technology organizations, manufacturers, public health agencies, academic and research institutions, and public sector stakeholders--to define and then implement specific actions that will address the quality, safety and efficiency challenges of the healthcare system through the use of interoperable information technology.

#### [Georgetown University Health Policy Institute](#)

The Health Policy Institute is a multi-disciplinary group of faculty and staff dedicated to conducting research on key issues in health policy and health services research. Institute members are engaged in a wide diversity of projects, focusing on issues relating to health care financing, the uninsured, federal health insurance reforms, quality of care and outcomes research, mental health services research, and the impact of changes in the health care market on providers and patients.

#### [Health Information and Management Systems Society](#)

A membership organization exclusively focused on providing leadership for the optimal use of healthcare information technology and management systems for the betterment of human health. HIMSS frames and leads healthcare public policy and industry practices through its advocacy, educational and professional development initiatives designed to promote information and

management systems' contributions to ensuring quality patient care.

#### [Healthcare Financial Management Association](#)

A membership organization for more than 34,000 healthcare financial management professionals employed by hospitals, integrated delivery systems, managed care organizations, ambulatory and long-term care facilities, physician practices, accounting and consulting firms, and insurance companies.

#### [Healthcare Leadership Council](#)

A coalition of chief executives from all disciplines within the health care system that is the forum for healthcare leaders to jointly develop policies, plans and programs to achieve their vision of a 21st century health care system.

#### [House 21st Century Health Care Caucus](#)

A bipartisan organization of House Members who seek to expand the use of information and information technology to drive measurable improvements in the quality, safety, and efficiency of healthcare. The caucus currently has almost two dozen members and in the 109th Congress is co-chaired by Rep. Tim Murphy (R-PA) and Rep. Patrick Kennedy (D-RI). Each month, the caucus sponsors an electronic newsletter for members and their staff on current topics of interest.

#### [Institute for Healthcare Improvement](#)

A not-for-profit organization driving the improvement of health by advancing the quality and value of health care.

#### [Leapfrog Group](#)

Made up of more than 170 companies and organizations that buy health care that works to trigger giant leaps forward in the safety, quality and affordability of health care by supporting informed healthcare decisions by those who use and pay for health care and by promoting high-value health care through incentives and rewards.

#### [National Alliance for Health Information Technology](#)

Created in June 2002 by the American Hospital Association along with 29 other organizations to improve quality and performance through standards-based information systems. It focuses on projects that will contribute to the development of a viable health information infrastructure. Its initial focus has been on standardized bar codes on products used by health care organizations.

#### [National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems](#)

Provides national leadership in advocating, creating, and maintaining comprehensive high quality public health information systems that integrate vital records registration, public health statistics, and other health information. In collaboration with other organizations, develops standards and principles to effectively administer public health statistics and information systems,

#### [National Institute for Health Care Management Research and Educational Foundation](#)

Conducts research, policy analysis and educational activities on a range of health care issues. It fosters dialogue between the private health care industry and government to find workable solutions to health system problems.

#### [\*\*HIMSS EHR Vendors Association\*\*](#)

HIMSS EHRVA is a trade association of Electronic Health Record (EHR) vendors that addresses national efforts to create interoperable EHRs in hospital and ambulatory care settings.

<http://www.himssehrva.org/ASP/index.asp>

#### Public Health Data Standards Consortium

A voluntary confederation of federal, state and local health agencies; national and local professional associations; public and private sector organizations; and individuals. The overall goal of the confederation is to develop, promote, and implement data standards for population health practice and research.

#### Public Health Informatics Institute

A program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation whose goal is to foster collaboration among public health agencies in the conception, design, acquisition, and deployment of software tools in order to eliminate redundant efforts, speed up development processes, and reduce costs.

#### VistA Software Alliance

A group of companies and individuals committed to promoting and supporting VistA as an electronic health record for healthcare organizations.

### **Federal Government EHR Activities**

#### AHIC EHR Workgroup

The American Health Information Community (the Community) recommended that Electronic Health Records (EHR) adoption be its top priority. Therefore, a workgroup was formed to analyze barriers to EHR adoption. The Community further recommended that this workgroup develop a plan to realize a specific charge (deploying a standardized means of accessing/deploying lab results/interpretations) within one year, which is visible to the American public and works towards a broader charge (ensuring widespread adoption of certified EHRs) over time. The meetings of this workgroup are public and meeting materials are available to the public.

<http://www.hhs.gov/healthit/ahic/healthrecords/>