Publicly Reported Measures and Methods

The following health information technology (HIT) measures are derived from the Department of Health's 2021 HIT Survey. Measures have been publicly reported annually for physicians since 2009 and for advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and physician assistants (PAs) since 2014. The HIT survey transferred to a biannual distribution in 2015. Measures are reported at both the summary (i.e., aggregate) level (see the **Detailed Reports**[†]) and at the **individual practitioner level**[††]. The 2021 individual practitioner report includes a new publically reported measure: use of telemedicine.

Note: In the following specifications, "practitioners" refers to physicians, APRNs and/or PAs. The 2021 Practitioner Report includes an updated set of measures; the use of telemedicine was added and another measure (practitioners experiencing HIT-related stress) was removed.

Measure 1: Practitioners with electronic health records (EHRs)

Summary-level	Percent yes
Practitioner-level	Yes/No
Survey content from which measure was derived	Does your main practice site have an electronic health record or EHR? By "EHR," we mean an integrated electronic clinical information system that tracks patient health data, and may include such functions as visit notes, prescriptions, lab orders, etc. (This is also known as an electronic medical record or EMR.)
Numerator	The number of survey respondents who indicate "yes," they use an EHR to track patient health care information at their main practice or another practice.
Denominator	Total number of survey respondents.
Notes	Practitioners who do not provide direct patient care are excluded. For the practitioner-level report, practitioners who do not respond to the HIT Survey are reported as NOT having an EHR (i.e., they have a "No" for this measure).
Definition	<u>EHR</u>: an integrated electronic clinical information system that tracks patient health data and may include such functions as visit notes, prescriptions, lab orders, etc. (This is also known as an electronic medical record or EMR.)

[†]https://health.ri.gov/publications/annualreports/HealthInformationTechnologyPhysicanSurveySummary.pdf

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Measure 2: Use of E-prescribing

Summary-level	Percent yes
Practitioner-level	Yes/No
Survey content from which measure was derived	How often do you transmit prescriptions electronically to the pharmacy?
Response categories	Almost always; Often; Sometimes; Never - I do not have a system that can do this; Never - My system can do this, but I do not use this function; N/A - I do not prescribe medications.
Numerator	The number of survey respondents who indicate "yes", they e-prescribe (Almost always, Often, Sometimes).
Denominator	Total number of survey respondents who prescribe medications.
Notes	One of the response categories changed for the 2021 survey, from "always" (in previous surveys) to "almost always" (in the 2021 survey). To obtain a "yes" for the measure, office-based practitioners must transmit prescriptions electronically to the pharmacy; hospital-based practitioners must transmit medication orders electronically to an outside or community pharmacy. Practitioners who do not provide direct patient care are excluded. For the summary-level report, practitioners who respond that they do not prescribe medications are excluded from the measure. For the practitioner-level report, practitioners who do not prescribe medications are indicated by N/A, and practitioners who do not respond to the HIT Survey are reported as NOT e-prescribing (i.e., they have a "No" for this measure).
Definitions	<u>E-prescribing</u>: Transmitting prescriptions or medication orders electronically to the pharmacy; includes both community pharmacies and hospital pharmacies. <u>Transmitting prescriptions electronically</u>: Prescriptions may be transmitted within practitioners' EHRs or with an external system, but cannot be transmitted via fax to be counted in this measure.

Measure 3: Use of E-prescribing for Controlled Substances

Summary-level	Percent yes
Practitioner-level	Yes/No
Survey content from which measure was derived	How often do you transmit controlled substance prescriptions (e.g., opioids, benzodiazepines, Adderall, testosterone, etc.) electronically to the pharmacy?
Response categories	Almost always; Often; Sometimes; Never - I do not have a system that can do this; Never - My system can do this, but I do not use this function; N/A - I do not prescribe controlled substances.
Numerator	The number of survey respondents who indicate "yes," they e-prescribe controlled substances (Almost always, Often, Sometimes).
Denominator	Total number of survey respondents who prescribe controlled substances.
Notes	One of the response categories changed for the 2021 survey, from "always" (in the 2019 survey) to "almost always" (in the 2021 survey). To obtain a "yes" for the measure, office-based practitioners must transmit controlled substance prescriptions electronically to the pharmacy; hospital-based practitioners must transmit controlled substance prescriptions electronically to an outside or community pharmacy. Practitioners who do not provide direct patient care are excluded. For the summary-level report, practitioners are excluded from the measure if they respond that they do not prescribe medications or indicate anywhere in the survey that they do not prescribe any controlled substances. For the practitioner-level report, practitioners who do not prescribe controlled substances are indicated by N/A, and practitioners who do not respond to the HIT Survey are reported as NOT e-prescribing controlled substances (i.e., they have a "No" for this measure).
Definitions	E-prescribing: Transmitting prescriptions or medication orders electronically to the pharmacy; includes both community pharmacies and hospital pharmacies. Transmitting prescriptions electronically: Prescriptions may be transmitted within practitioners' EHRs or with an external system, but cannot be transmitted via fax to be counted in this measure.

Measure 4: Use of Telemedicine

Summary-level	Percent yes
Practitioner-level	N/A—not reported at the individual practitioner level
Survey content from which measure was derived	In the past year, have you cared for patients using telemedicine, in lieu of a face-to-face visit/encounter?
Response categories	Yes/No
Numerator	The number of survey respondents who indicate "yes," they used telemedicine during the past year.
Denominator	Total number of survey respondents who answer the telemedicine question.
Notes	Practitioners who do not provide direct patient care are excluded.
Definitions	Telemedicine: Remote, real-time communication between a patient and clinician, in lieu of a face-to-face visit. Telemedicine can include audio only (e.g., telephone) or audio and video (e.g., video calling).