Publicly Reported Measures and Methods

The following health information technology (HIT) measures are derived from the Department of Health’s 2017 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. Measures are reported at both the summary (i.e., aggregate) level (see the Detailed Reports†) and at the individual practitioner level++. Note: In the following specifications, “practitioners” refers to physicians, APRNs and/or PAs. There was no HIT survey in 2016.

Measure 1: Practitioners with electronic health records (EHRs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary-level</th>
<th>Percent yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Practitioner-level</td>
<td>Yes/No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

EHR: 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.)

†http://www.health.ri.gov/publications/annualreports/HealthInformationTechnologyPhysicanSurveySummary.pdf

‡http://www.health.ri.gov/publications/annualreports/HealthInformationTechnologyPhysicanSurvey.pdf
# Measure 2: Use of E-prescribing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary-level</th>
<th>Practitioner-level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent yes</td>
<td>Yes/No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Survey content from which measure was derived

What percent of the time do you transmit prescriptions electronically to the pharmacy?

## Response categories

0%; 1-50%; >50%; Not applicable

## Numerator

The number of survey respondents who indicate “yes,” they e-prescribe (>0%)

## Denominator

Total number of survey respondents who prescribe medications

## Notes

To obtain a “yes” for the measure, office-based practitioners must transmit prescriptions electronically to the pharmacy for >0% of their patients; hospital-based practitioners must transmit medication orders electronically to their hospital pharmacy OR transmit prescriptions electronically to an outside or community pharmacy for >0% of their patients.

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

**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 3: Use of EHR functionality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary-level</th>
<th>Median use on a 0-100 scale, with 100 indicating the greatest use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Practitioner-level</td>
<td>Displayed as circles to show how a practitioner’s EHR use compares to other practitioners in the state who have EHRs; ● ○ ○ means they are in the 1st or lowest quartile of responses, ● ● ● ○ means they are in the 2nd or 3rd quartile of responses, ● ● ● ● ○ means they are in the 4th or highest quartile of responses, and ○ ○ ○ ○ ● means they did not respond to the survey or do not have an EHR.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Survey content from which measure was derived

- **Decision support**
  - Prompts at the point of care, regarding recommended care specific to the patient
  - Drug allergy or interaction warnings at the point of prescribing
  - Notification of whether a specific drug is covered by a patient’s insurance at the point of prescribing*

- **Interoperability**
  - Access to CurrentCare from within the EHR (i.e., without a separate log-in)
  - Access to other health system’s lab results from within the EHR
  - Sending patient clinical summaries for consults, referrals, or transfers via an EHR**
  - Clinical messaging (secure emailing with clinicians outside your practice site via an EHR)
  - E-Referrals (requesting a referral entirely via an EHR, without needing to fax information or call)**
  - E-Consults (either providing or requesting specialist input via an EHR without a patient visit)**

- **Results management**
  - Lab test results directly from your primary lab via electronic interface
  - Radiology results directly from your primary lab via electronic interface

### Response categories

- Have but don’t use
- Have and use
- Don’t know
- Don’t have

### Calculation

For each of the 11 functionalities, scores are weighted according to each response category: 0 points for “don’t have” or “don’t know,” 1 point for “have but don’t use,” and 2 points for “have and use”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Practitioners who do not provide direct patient care are excluded. For the summary-level report, only survey respondents with EHRs are included in the measure. *Hospital-based practitioners are asked instead if they received notification of whether a specific drug is included in facility formulary. **Hospital-based practitioners are not asked this question.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EHR</strong>: 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.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Measure 4: Use of an EHR for patient engagement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary-level</th>
<th>Median use on a 0-100 scale, with 100 indicating the greatest use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Practitioner-level</td>
<td>Displayed as circles to show how a practitioner's EHR use for patient engagement compares to other practitioners in the state who have EHRs; ○○○ ○ means they are in the 1st or lowest quartile of responses, ○○○ ○ means they are in the 2nd or 3rd quartile of responses, ○○○ ○ means they are in the 4th or highest quartile of responses, and ○○○ ○ means they did not respond to the survey or do not have an EHR.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Survey content from which measure was derived | **Patient interaction tools**  
- Patient portal  
- Patient access to medication list  
- Patient access to problem list  
- Patient access to clinician notes  
- Patient access to test results  
- After-visit summaries for patients  
- Patient-specific educational resources  
- Patient-initiated prescription refill requests*  
- Patient-submitted forms and documentation (e.g., advance directive)  
- Patient-submitted clinical data (e.g., blood pressure or blood sugar tracking)*  
- Patient self-scheduling appointments via EHR*  
- Secure messaging with patients using an EHR  
**Practice-level tools**  
- Practice has a website intended for patients |
| Response categories | Have **but generally don’t discuss** with patients; Have and **encourage patients to use**; Don’t know; Don’t have |
| Calculation | For each of the 13 patient interaction tools, scores are weighted according to each response category: 0 points for “don’t have” or “don’t know,” 1 point for “have but generally don’t discuss,” and 2 points for “have and encourage patients to use” |
| Notes | Practitioners who do not provide direct patient care are excluded. For the summary-level report, only survey respondents with EHRs are included in the measure.  
*Hospital-based practitioners are not asked this question. |
| Definitions | Patient engagement: Certain “actions individuals must take to obtain the greatest benefit from the health care services available
to them” (Center for Advancing Health); in the context of this measure, practitioners can use EHRs for patient engagement by providing patients access to their clinical information, providing patient education, and facilitating communication using an EHR.

**EHR**: 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.)
## Measure 5: Practitioners experiencing HIT-related stress

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary-level</th>
<th>Percent of respondents reporting stress in at least one of the three HIT-related stress questions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Practitioner-level</td>
<td>N/A—not reported at the individual practitioner level</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Survey content from which measure was derived and response categories

- **Sufficiency of time for documentation**
  - Poor; Marginal; Satisfactory; Good; Optimal
- **Amount of time I spend on the EHR at home**
  - Excessive; Moderately high; Satisfactory; Modest; Minimal/None
- **Using my EHR adds to the frustration of my day**
  - Strongly disagree; Disagree; Agree; Strongly agree

### Numerator
The number of survey respondents with EHRs who report stress in at least one of the three HIT-related stress questions

### Denominator
Total number of survey respondents with EHRs who answer the HIT-related stress questions

### Notes
Responses of “poor” and “marginal” are classified as HIT-related stress for the sufficiency of time for documentation question. Responses of “agree” and “strongly agree” are classified as HIT-related stress for the EHR adds to daily frustration question. Responses of “excessive” and “moderately high” are classified as HIT-related stress for the time spent on the EHR at home question. All other response categories are classified as no HIT-related stress.

Practitioners who do not provide direct patient care are excluded.

### Definitions
**EHR**: 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.)