Safe Health IT Resources

Health IT

The Safety Assurance Factors for EHR Resilience (SAFER) Guides – The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) guides identify recommended practices to optimize the safety and safe use of EHRs. They can be downloaded and completed locally for self-assessment of an organization’s degree of conformance to the Recommended Practices.

Health IT and Safety – The ONC’s web page describes their ongoing work on improving the safe use of health IT, learning more about the impact of health IT on patient safety, and leading to create a culture of shared responsibility among all users of health IT.

Health IT Buzz – A blog sponsored by the ONC to answer questions about the nation’s transition to electronic health records and to create a conversation about the challenges and successes health care providers, physicians, practices, and organizations are experiencing as they transition from paper to electronic health records.

Health Information Technology: Best Practices Transforming Quality, Safety, and Efficiency – AHRQ’s Health IT Portfolio develops and disseminates evidence to inform policy and practice on how health information technology can improve the quality of health care.

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Common Formats – AHRQ created the Common Formats (common definitions and reporting formats) to help providers uniformly report patient safety events and to improve health care providers’ efforts to eliminate harm.

The Health IT Hazard Manager – The AHRQ funded Health IT Hazard Manager, developed by researchers at Geisinger Health System, is a tool designed to support the characterization of hazards and communicate their potential and actual causality in adverse effects.

ECRI Center for Health IT Safety and Innovation – This free education resource site is intended to provide you with quick access to a range of resources on health information technology safety including general guidance, as well as more in-depth research on medical device connectivity and electronic health records.

Manufacturer and User Facility Device Experience (MAUDE) – Food and Drug Administration (FDA) MAUDE database houses medical device reports submitted to the FDA by mandatory reporters (manufacturers, importers and device user facilities) and voluntary reporters such as health care professionals, patients and consumers.

Information Governance: Principles for Healthcare - AHIMA with input from information governance (IG) experts and stakeholders, has developed principles that drive the framework and processes for an enterprise-wide IG program.
Safe Health IT Resources (continued)

Health IT (continued)

Guidelines for Standard Order Sets – ISMP’s standard order sets help to minimize incorrect or incomplete prescribing, standardize patient care, and ensure clarity when communicating medical orders.

Take 5 with The Joint Commission Podcast: Spotlight on health IT. – Health information technology can enhance patient safety, however, it can also add a layer of complexity to an already complex system according to Gerry Castro, project director in the Office of Patient Safety at The Joint Commission.

Health IT Reports and Publications


Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology. How to identify and address unsafe conditions associated with Health IT. November 15, 2013.


Castro GM. Classification of Health Information Technology-Related Contributing Factors to Patient Safety Events. [PhD, Doctor of Philosophy]. University of Illinois at Chicago; 2014.

Patient Safety

Patient Safety Systems Chapter for the Hospital program – The 2015 Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Hospitals includes the new “Patient Safety Systems” chapter, a blueprint for leaders that uses existing standards to achieve an integrated approach to patient safety.


Safe Health IT Resources (continued)

Patient Safety (continued)
