



Effective Health Care

Electronic Health Records (EHR) in Primary Care Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Electronic health records in primary care is an important topic, but may be more appropriate for products outside the EHC Program. No further activity on this topic will be undertaken by the Effective Health Care (EHC) Program.

Topic Description

Nominator: Individual

Nomination Summary: The nominator's primary interest is in the potential impact of the use of EHR in primary care (e.g., family medicine, internal medicine, and pediatrics). He suggests that a comparison of primary care practices that currently use EHR to those that do not may clarify issues surrounding harms, benefits, and costs. The nominator asserts that current projects on EHR are very disease focused. He is interested in a project that examines EHR use in primary care especially for the elderly or patients that require multiple condition management.

Population(s): Primary care practices

Intervention(s): Use of EHR

Comparator(s): No use of EHR

Outcome(s): Potential harms, benefits, and costs (time and workload) associated with EHR use. The nominator is also interested in clinician/practice-oriented outcomes such as decreased work load, improvement in work flow, lower rates of medical errors, communication improvement, and reduced physician attrition.

Key Questions from Nominator:

1. What impacts may the use of EHR have in primary care?
2. How can the benefits be maximized, the costs limited, and the harms minimized?

Considerations

- The topic meets EHC Program appropriateness and importance criteria. (For more information, see [http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/.](http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/))
- This is an important topic; however, it may be more appropriate for products outside the EHC Program, such as a systematic review by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Evidence-based Practice Center (EPC) Program or further work within the domain of the AHRQ National Resource Center for Health Information Technology. This nomination will be forwarded to the AHRQ

EPC Program and the AHRQ National Resource Center for Health Information Technology for consideration. No further activity will be undertaken on this topic within the EHC Program at this time.