



# Effective Health Care Minimum Requirements for an Electronic Health Record Nomination Summary Document

## Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Minimum requirements for an electronic health record (EHR) was found to be addressed by an existing AHRQ report. Given that the existing report covers this nomination, no further activity will be undertaken on this topic.
  - Jimison H, Gorman P, Woods S, Nygren P, Walker M, Norris S, Hersh W. Barriers and Drivers of Health Information Technology Use for the Elderly, Chronically Ill, and Underserved. Evidence Report/Technology Assessment No. 175 (Prepared by the Oregon Evidence-based Practice Center under Contract No. 290-02-0024). AHRQ Publication No. 09-E004. Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. November 2008. Available at: <http://www.ahrq.gov/downloads/pub/evidence/pdf/hitbarriers/hitbar.pdf>

## Topic Description

**Nominator:** Individual

**Nomination Summary:** The nominator is concerned with the minimum requirements needed for an EHR system in a skilled nursing facility setting.

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**Population(s):** Users of EHR in a skilled nursing facility

**Intervention(s):** Requirements for EHR system

**Comparator(s):** None

**Outcome(s):** Clinical and operational outcomes and care management

**Key Questions from Nominator:** 1. What are the minimum requirements for an EHR to be considered clinically and operationally effective from a compliance and interdisciplinary care management standpoint in Skilled Nursing Facility?

## Considerations

- Topic was found to be addressed by an existing AHRQ report titled *Health Information Technology Use, Barriers and Drivers*. This report focuses on health information technology use in elderly, chronically ill, and underserved populations. The populations addressed here are most likely a good match for the population of a skilled nursing facility, which the nominator is interested in. Although this report does not specifically define minimum requirements for an EHR, it does review evidence for what features make EHR effective in these populations, information which could be used to develop minimum requirements. Key questions from this report include:

1. Among elderly, chronically ill, and underserved populations, what is the current level of use of specific forms of interactive consumer health IT?
    - a. What are the primary uses of interactive consumer health IT?
    - b. How does interactive consumer health IT use vary?
    - c. Does use vary in settings where consumers have access to interactive health IT tools?
    - d. How does the level and type of health IT use for the elderly, chronically ill, and underserved populations compare with that of the general population?
  2. In the elderly, chronically ill, and underserved populations, what type of interactive consumer health IT is most useful and easy for people to use?
    - a. How useful are various types of interactive consumer health IT applications?
    - b. What are the usability factors associated with various types of interactive consumer health IT?
  3. In the elderly, chronically ill, and underserved populations, what barriers hinder the use of consumer health IT?
    - a. How do these barriers vary for these populations of interest?
    - b. How do these barriers vary by type of interactive consumer health IT application?
  4. In the elderly, chronically ill and underserved populations, what drivers or facilitators may stimulate or enable the use of consumer health IT?
    - a. How do these drivers and facilitators vary for these populations of interest?
    - b. How do these drivers and facilitators vary by type of interactive consumer health IT application?
  5. In the elderly, chronically ill, and underserved populations, is interactive consumer health IT effective in improving outcomes?
    - a. How does the technology's effectiveness vary for our populations of interest?
    - b. How does the technology's effectiveness in these populations of interest differ from the effectiveness in the general population?
- The following in-process AHRQ health IT reports may also be of interest: *Enabling Health Care Decisionmaking through the Use of Health IT*; *Enabling Medication Management through Health IT*; and *Enabling Patient-Centered Care through Health IT*. To sign up for notification when these and other AHRQ Evidence-based Practice Center Program topics are posted, please go to [https://subscriptions.ahrq.gov/service/multi\\_subscribe.html?code=USAHRQ](https://subscriptions.ahrq.gov/service/multi_subscribe.html?code=USAHRQ).