



## Effective Health Care

### National Electronic Health Record System

#### Next Steps

The nominator is interested in implementation of a national electronic health record system.

Funding for the development and implementation of a national electronic health record system is outside the purview of AHRQ's Effective Health Care Program, which is focused on developing evidence reviews to inform healthcare decision-making about interventions and activities available for decisionmakers in the United States. No further activity will be undertaken on this topic.

#### Summary

**Topic Name and Number:** National Electronic Health Record System, #785

**Nomination Date:** 5/24/2018

**Date:** 6/12/2018

- An electronic health record (EHR) is a digital version of a patient's paper chart. EHRs are real-time, patient-centered records that make information available instantly and securely to authorized users. While an EHR does contain the medical and treatment histories of patients, an EHR system is built to go beyond standard clinical data collected in a provider's office and can be inclusive of a broader view of a patient's care.[1]
- While EHRs can offer benefits including efficiencies, improved patient safety and quality care, their use can result in unintended consequences as outlined by the nominator. These can include increased workload for clinicians, changes to usual workflows, and continued need for changes to the system [2].
- There are many challenges to implementing a global electronic health record and touch on areas such as interoperability, standards, and more.
- While this is an important issue, directly supporting these efforts is outside the purview of the AHRQ EHC Program.
- AHRQ has an active research portfolio on Health Information Technology (<https://healthit.ahrq.gov/>). Resources developed by this portfolio may be of interest to the nominator.

#### References

1. *What is an electronic health record (EHR)?* 2018 21 March 2018 [cited 2018 7 June 2018]; Available from: <https://www.healthit.gov/faq/what-electronic-health-record-ehr>.
2. Jones S, K.R., Ridgely MS, Palen TE, Wu S, Harrison MI, *Guide to Reducing Unintended Consequences of Electronic Health Records*. 2011, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality: Rockville, MD.