



## **Health Information Technology (HIT) Resources for the Delta Rural Hospital Performance Improvement (RHPI) Program**

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### **Top 10 HIT Resources**

**Prepared for: Delta Rural Hospital Performance Improvement Program  
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## **Introduction**

The Top 10 Health Information Technology Resources are listed alphabetically by title. Each resource contains the following information:

Title

Web link

Purpose

Utilization Suggestions

Uniqueness

Components

Author

If you have any questions about the resources listed in this document, please contact the National Rural Health Resource Center at: 218-727-9390 or email [info@ruralcenter.org](mailto:info@ruralcenter.org)

## **Rural Health Information Technology Adoption Toolbox**

### **What is the purpose of this toolkit?**

This toolkit best serves rural health providers seeking to implement HIT to improve the overall effectiveness of their institutions. This resource is organized in a question-and-answer format and compiles resources relevant to all stages of considering, planning, executing, and evaluating the implementation of H IT.

### **How can I utilize this toolkit in my state?**

This toolkit includes tips for: disseminating information on Federal Government initiatives that support rural providers; implementing strategic EHR planning processes for rural hospitals; guiding EHR vendor selection; overcoming staffing limitations; searching for funding; developing a rural health network, creating a health information exchange; implementing telehealth in rural settings; and devising an evaluation process that is appropriate for rural providers.

### **What are the components of this toolkit?**

[1. Introduction to Rural Health](#)

[2. Getting Started](#)

[3. Health IT Selection and Implementation in Rural Settings](#)

[4. Project Management and Staffing](#)

[5. Financing and Sustainability](#)

[6. Opportunities for Collaboration](#)

[7. Telehealth](#)

[8. Patient Quality Improvement, Evaluation and Optimization in Rural Settings](#)

**Developed by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Office of Rural Health Policy**

## **Health Information Technology Toolkit for Critical Access and Small Hospitals**

### **What is the purpose of this toolkit?**

This toolkit provides critical access and small hospitals numerous resources in health information technology (HIT), including tools for telehealth, health information exchange, and personal health records.

### **How can I utilize this toolkit in my state?**

Avoid having your hospitals re-invent the wheel as they plan for and implement HIT. Use this toolkit in your state to offer your hospitals a "rural hospital tested and approved" HIT model.

### **What makes this toolkit unique?**

What makes this toolkit unique is that it supplies a variety of tools for use at different points in the HIT adoption process. It assists readers by identifying each component of the toolkit with a brief statement

of purpose to help guide when to use each tool, how to use it and how to customize tools to best suit the unique needs of critical access and small hospitals. An earlier version of this toolkit was distributed nationwide on CD-ROM through the Rural Hospital Flexibility (Flex) Program via TASC.

### **What are the components of this toolkit?**

#### **Adopt**

1. Assess
2. Plan
3. Select

#### **Utilize**

1. Implement
2. Effective use

#### **Exchange**

1. Readiness
2. Interoperate

**Developed by Stratis Health**

## **Electronic Health Record Selection Guidelines**

### **What is the purpose of these guidelines?**

Electronic Health Records (EHR) Selection Guidelines help health centers evaluate products and develop requests for proposals (RFP) or requests for information (RFI). This resource includes a downloadable Word document, written in RFI format that enables health centers to gather detailed information from EHR vendors about their products.

### **How can I utilize these guidelines in my state?**

- Help the health centers in your state add to or subtract from the relatively comprehensive list of features in the Guidelines to make sure the EHR they select meets their needs.
- Put together a guide to help your health centers gather detailed information from vendors as they consider EHR products.
- With this information, assist your health centers in evaluating vendor proposals and products to make informed purchasing decisions.

### **What makes these guidelines unique?**

This HRSA developed tool has been assembled in consultation with health center clinicians and Chief Medical Officers. This document is also updated periodically as the HIT environment changes.

Developed by the Health Resources and Services Administration

## **Health Information Security and Privacy Collaboration Toolkit**

### **What is the purpose of this toolkit?**

This **toolkit** provides business practice and policy assessments for maintaining privacy and security in preparing stakeholders to invest in a Health Information Exchange (HIE) framework.

### **How can I utilize this toolkit in my state?**

This toolkit identifies practical challenges and solutions for preserving health information security and privacy requirements that vary between local, state, and federal laws.

### **What makes this toolkit unique?**

This toolkit was developed as part of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) joint-funded Health Information Security and Privacy Collaboration (HISPC) project and allows readers to identify specific practices that may pose HIE challenges and in turn develops detailed plans for implementing solutions to these barriers while preserving privacy and security requirements.

### **What are the components of this toolkit?**

#### **Section 1: Tools**

Scenarios Guide  
Dimensions of Business Practices  
Data Collection Templates  
Guidelines for Describing Business Practices  
Example Business Practices  
Stakeholder Meeting Discussion Guide  
Stakeholder Meeting Checklist  
Stakeholder Meeting Debriefing Guide

#### **Section 2: Reference Materials**

Reference Library  
Existing Guidance to Support HIE Implementation Opportunities  
Relevant Legal Requirements for Health Data Exchange for Health Care Organizations  
IT Privacy and Security Primer  
Glossary

Developed by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

## [Health Information Technology Evaluation Toolkit](#)

### **What is the purpose of this toolkit?**

The AHRQ National Resource Center's Health IT Evaluation Toolkit is intended to help demystify the process of creating a plan to evaluate your health IT project. We hope you and your project team finds the toolkit to be helpful and we wish you good luck in developing your plan.

### **How can I utilize this toolkit in my state?**

Evaluations help justify investment in health IT projects by demonstrating project impacts. This is exactly the type of information needed to convert late adopters and others resistant to health IT. We can also share such information with our communities, raising awareness of efforts in the health IT field on behalf of patient safety and increasing quality of care. For years, health IT has been implemented with the goals of improving clinical care processes, health care quality, and patient safety, without questioning the evidence base behind the true impact of these systems. In short, these systems were implemented because they were viewed as the right thing to do. In the early days of health IT implementation, evaluations took a back seat to project work and frequently were not performed at all, at a tremendous loss to the health IT field. Imagine how much easier it would be for you to implement your project if you had solid cost and impact data at your fingertips.

### **What makes this toolkit unique?**

This toolkit is unique because it focuses directly on evaluation of health IT.

### **What are the components of this toolkit?**

Section I: Developing an Evaluation Plan

Section II: Examples of Measures that May Be Used to Evaluate Your Project

Section III: Examples of Projects

Developed by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

## [Health Information Technology Adoption Toolbox](#)

### **What is the purpose of this toolkit?**

This toolkit is meant to serve health centers as well as other safety net and ambulatory care providers seeking to implement health IT to improve the overall effectiveness of their institutions. It is organized in a question-and-answer format that attempts to compile a range of resources relevant to all stages of considering, planning, executing, and evaluating the implementation of health IT.

### **How can I utilize this toolkit in my state?**

This tool can be used to address goals and objectives for health IT adoption and other startup concerns,

such as quality improvement, readiness assessment, staffing, feasibility analysis, and strategies for financing health IT.

Are you working on a network or a health information exchange? Information on controlled networks and health information exchange organizations are provided in this toolkit along with information on how health IT sites can develop relationships with these entities.

Are your hospitals trying to select a vendor? You will find a process that maps the workflow, vendor selection including drafting RFPs/RFIs, conducting vendor and technology assessments, and negotiating vendor contracts.

### **What makes this toolbox unique?**

The question-and-answer format of this toolbox is helpful as it not only tackles those frequently asked questions, but it also provides a range of resources relevant to all stages of considering, planning, executing, and evaluating the implementation of HIT.

### **What are the components of this toolkit?**

- [1. Introduction to Health IT](#)
- [2. Getting Started](#)
- [3. Opportunities for Collaboration](#)
- [4. Project Management and Oversight](#)
- [5. Planning for technology implementation](#)
- [6. Organizational Change Management and Training](#)
- [7. System Implementation](#)
- [8. Evaluating, Optimizing, and Sustaining](#)
- [9. Advanced Topics](#)
- [10. Open Source and Public Domain Software](#)
- [11. Privacy and Security](#)

**Developed by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Office of Health Information Technology (OHIT)**

## **[Accessible Health Information Technology \(IT\) for Populations with Limited Literacy: A Guide for Developers and Purchasers of Health IT](#)**

### **What is the purpose of this guide?**

This guide was designed to help developers and purchasers of Health Information Technology (HIT) reach adults with limited literacy. Limited literacy can be a barrier to making the benefits of HIT widely available to consumers. The guide presents design principles and strategies to increase consumer accessibility to HIT.

### **How can I utilize this guide in my state?**

This guide can be used to engage health care consumers in your state on the benefits of health



information technology. With the health care environment's increasing emphasis on engaging consumers in their care, the market for consumer health IT has been expanding. To support this new paradigm, health plans are providing consumers with information and tools to enhance their decision-making ability. Similarly, State and Federal Governments are promoting the development of health IT, including a focus on personal health records and other systems that interface with consumers. As health plans and governments strive to engage consumers in their own care, accessible information and tools to support and empower consumers – including those with limited literacy – will be crucial.

### **What makes this guide unique?**

This guide is unique because it focuses on a population with limited-literacy. The guide highlights three HIT products that have been well-received and utilized by adults with limited literacy.

### **What are the components of this guide?**

Section I: Introduction and Checklist

Section II: Overview of Health IT for Limited-Literacy Populations

Section II: Principles of Accessible and Usable Health IT

## **Developed by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality**

## **[CMS Health Information Technology](#)**

### **What is the purpose of this web site?**

This web site provides information about Health IT incentives and support for adoption, establishment of health IT standards and infrastructure, and privacy & security pertaining to Health IT. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has a role in three areas of the HITECH Act:

- Implementation of the EHR incentive programs, including defining meaningful use of certified EHR technology;
- Establishment of standards, implementation specifications, and certification criteria for EHR technology.
- Privacy and Security protections under the HITECH Act

### **How can I utilize this web site in my state?**

This web site can be utilized as a resource in your state to share information about the electronic health record implementation incentive programs.

### **What makes this web site unique?**

CMS administers the EHR incentive programs under Medicare and Medicaid so you can find official information about the incentive program here.

**What are the components of this web site?**

Implementation of the EHR Incentive Programs  
Establishment of EHR Technology Standards and Certification Requirements  
Protecting Privacy and Security of Health Information

**Developed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**

## **[eHealth Initiative Connecting Communities Toolkit](#)**

**What is the purpose of this toolkit?**

National, state and local leaders alike are looking for ways to improve upon their efforts to bring multiple stakeholders together to collaborate on health IT adoption and the exchange of information electronically across organizations to improve the quality, safety and efficiency of health care. The eHealth Initiative Toolkit is designed to provide useful information to support health care leaders with the various challenges associated with health IT and health information exchange adoption.

**How can I utilize this toolkit in my state?**

You can use this toolkit to work with multi-stakeholder working groups focused on issues such as practice transformation, financing and sustainability, organization and governance, and technology, developed common principles, strategies and tools designed to help national, state and local experts navigate these areas.

**What makes this toolkit unique?**

Content for the Toolkit was developed by hundreds of individuals representing organizations from across every sector of health care and it is constantly evolving.

**What are the components of this toolkit?**

Key Elements  
Blueprint  
Stakeholders  
Acronyms

**Developed by the eHealth Initiative**

## **[Implementation of Telepharmacy in Rural Hospitals: Potential for Improving Medication Safety \(Full Report\)](#)**

**What is the purpose of this report?**

This report describes successful telepharmacy activities being implemented in rural hospitals and analyze policy issues related to the implementation of telepharmacy projects in rural hospitals. Also available is a [4-minute](#) video from Michelle Casey, Upper Midwest Rural Health Research Center, discussing the telepharmacy study.

**How can I utilize this report in my state?**

If your state is currently working on any telepharmacy projects, this report is a great example of successful telepharmacy activities that have been implemented in rural hospitals.

**What makes this report unique?**

This report is unique because it evaluates several different rural hospital telepharmacy models are being implemented around the country. The models being implemented appear to be a function of a variety of factors, including the state policy and regulatory environment, and rural hospital characteristics, including ownership and network relationships, the type of rural area (e.g., isolated rural or frontier versus more densely populated areas), distances between hospitals, hospital size, and medication order volume.

**What are the components of this report?**

Executive Summary

Introduction

Background

Purpose

Methods

Results

Discussion

References

**Developed by Upper Midwest Rural Health Policy Center**