



EHR Readiness Tool Kit ***EHR Major Players***

The following is a list of stakeholder organizations that have a vested interest in and/or regulatory oversight for the development, integration, and implementation of electronic health record systems in the United States.

1. [Office of National Coordinator of Health IT](#)

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) is at the forefront of the government's health IT efforts, and a resource to the entire health system to support the adoption of health information technology and the promotion of nationwide health information exchange to improve health care. ONC is organizationally located within the Office of the Secretary for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ONC is the principal Federal entity charged with coordinating the nationwide effort to implement and use the most advanced health information technology available and overseeing the electronic exchange of health information. The position of National Coordinator was created in 2004 through an executive order and legislatively mandated in the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act [HITECH Act] of 2009.

ONC's mission includes:

- Promoting development of a nationwide HIT infrastructure that allows for electronic use and exchange of information that:
 - Ensures secure and protected patient health information.
 - Improves health care quality.
 - Reduces health care costs.
 - Informs medical decisions at the time/place of care.
 - Includes meaningful public input in infrastructure development.
 - Improves coordination of care and information among hospitals, labs, physicians, etc.
 - Improves public health activities and facilitates early identification/rapid response to public health emergencies.
 - Facilitates health and clinical research.
 - Promotes early detection, prevention, and management of chronic diseases.
 - Promotes a more effective marketplace.
 - Improves efforts to reduce health disparities.



- Providing leadership in the development, recognition, and implementation of standards and the certification of HIT products.
- Health IT policy coordination.
- Strategic planning for HIT adoption and health information exchange.

2. [Department of Health and Human Services \(DHHS\)](#)

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is the United States government's principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves.

3. [Certification Commission of Health Information Technology](#)

The Certification Commission is an independent, 501(c)3 nonprofit organization recognized as the certifying body for electronic health records. Their mission is to accelerate the adoption of robust, interoperable health information technology by creating a credible, efficient certification process.

A solid foundation for electronic health record technology

Founded in 2004, and certifying electronic health records (EHRs) since 2006, the Commission established the first comprehensive, practical definition of what capabilities were needed in these systems. The certification criteria were developed through a voluntary, consensus-based process engaging diverse stakeholders, and the Certification Commission was officially recognized by the Federal government as a certifying body.

Uptake by the health IT industry was rapid, with more than 200 EHR products certified by mid-2009, representing over 75% of the marketplace. Provider organizations endorsed the work as well. Based on this broad acceptance, healthcare payers and purchasers in the government and private sectors began offering incentives to providers for adopting certified EHR technology.

In February 2009, Congress acknowledged the value of certification in the language of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) aimed at stimulating the nation's economy. The law offers a multi-year series of incentive payments to providers and hospitals for the meaningful use of certified EHR technology. The total amount of payments has been projected by the Congressional Budget Office at \$34 billion.

Readiness for the future: New paths to certification

Anticipating a massive response to the new incentives, CCHIT has launched plans to broaden access to certification, offering **3 paths** to certification instead of just one. The new paths are intended to bring wider availability of EHR technologies, stimulate innovation, and address the needs of providers and hospitals at varying stages of technology adoption readiness.



The 3 paths for EHR certification are:

- **CCHIT Certified:** A rigorous certification for comprehensive EHR systems that enable providers to meet all meaningful use objectives. Products must significantly exceed minimum Federal standards requirements, are rated for usability, and are verified to be in successful use at multiple sites. This program addresses the needs of providers and hospitals who want maximal assurance of EHR capabilities and compliance.
- **Federal Minimum:** A modular certification program for applications that address one or more of the meaningful use objectives. Products must meet minimum Federal standards requirements. This program allows providers and hospitals to combine technologies from multiple certified sources.
- **Site:** A simplified, low cost certification for sites or organizations. Technology must meet minimum Federal standards requirements. This program allows providers and hospitals who develop or assemble EHR technologies themselves to qualify for ARRA incentives, offering an open door to encourage continued innovation.

4. [The Health Story Project](#)

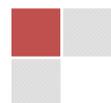
Health Story members share the vision that all of the clinical information required for good patient care, administration, reporting ,and research will be readily available electronically, including information from narrative documents.

Approximately 1.2 billion clinical documents are produced in the United States each year. Dictated and transcribed documents make up around 60% of all clinical notes. These documents contain the majority of physician-attested information and are used as the primary source of information for reimbursement and proof of service. This tremendous source of clinical information is underutilized in current computer-based record systems.

Health Story is an alliance of healthcare vendors, providers and associations that pooled resources over the previous two years in a rapid-development initiative called “CDA4CDT” (Clinical Document Architecture for Common Data Types) to produce data standards for the flow of information between common types of healthcare documents and electronic health records.

Five technical implementation guides are now available as HL7 standards and draft standards for trial use. There remain important document types to be defined as well as work to support their implementation. In addition, industry must be informed about the availability of the standards and about the essential role and benefits of electronic documents.

- Consultation Note: Draft Standard for Trial Use
- History and Physical: Draft Standard for Trial Use
- Operative Note: Draft Standard for Trial Use
- Diagnostic Imaging Reports: Informative Standard
- Discharge Summary: In HL7 ballot reconciliation



5. [The American Health Information Management Association \(AHIMA\)](#)

AHIMA is the premier association of health information management (HIM) professionals. AHIMA's more than 53,000 members are dedicated to the effective management of personal health information required to deliver quality healthcare to the public. Founded in 1928 to improve the quality of medical records, AHIMA is committed to advancing the HIM profession in an increasingly electronic and global environment through leadership in advocacy, education, certification, and lifelong learning.

