



Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Advancing Excellence in Health Care • www.ahrq.gov

AHRQ and HRSA Health IT Portal Demonstration

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HIT: A Rural Provider's Roadmap to Quality

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AHRQ's Mission

Improve the quality, safety,
efficiency and effectiveness of
health care for all Americans



Research at HHS: Where Does AHRQ Fit In?

- **NIH** -- basic biomedical, lab bench research and “efficacy” clinical trials
- **CDC** -- the public health system, community-based interventions
- **AHRQ** -- “effectiveness” of health care services and the health care delivery system (**What works in real world settings?**)

Intersection of Safety, Quality and Health IT



Support diffusion of HIT to:

- 38 states
- 40 million Americans

Improve medication safety

- CMS e-prescribing demos

Provide HIT technical support
to the safety net

- Community health centers
- Critical access hospitals
- Public hospitals

AHRQ's Health IT Portfolio

<http://healthit.ahrq.gov>

State and Regional Demonstrations
5 yr

Planning
1 yr

Implementation
3 yr

Demonstrating
Value
3 yr

National Resource Center
for Health IT

Implementation grants

■ Varied technologies

- Bar coding
- Computerized provider order entry (CPOE)
- Disease management registry
- Imaging (PACS)
- Patient-centered care
- Pharmacy
- Telehealth
- Chronic disease
- Decision support
- Electronic medical records (EMR)
- Medication administration
- Non-traditional settings
- Reduce medical errors/ADEs
- Evidence-based practice measures

■ 1/2 Rural

■ AHRQ-sponsored

Evaluation Toolkit



State and Regional Demonstrations

- To identify and support **statewide data sharing** and interoperability activities aimed at improving the quality, safety, efficiency and effectiveness of health care for a discrete state/region
- To demonstrate **measurable improvements** in the quality of care resulting from the proposed data sharing and interoperability measures.
- **5-year State-based contracts: Colorado, Delaware, Indiana, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah**
 - Help States develop secure statewide networks
 - Ensure privacy of health information
 - Make an individuals' health information more available to health care providers

Privacy and Security Contract

- In September 2005, AHRQ awarded “Privacy and Security Solutions for Interoperable Health Information Exchange”
- Overall contract managed by RTI International in partnership with NGA
- 19-month period; increased to \$17.4 million overall
- RTI is subcontracting with 33 states and Puerto Rico to:
 - Identify within the state business practices that affect electronic health information exchange
 - Propose solutions and implementation plans
 - Collaborate on regional and national meetings to develop solutions with broader application
- Provide final report on overall project outcomes and recommendations

AHRQ National Resource Center for Health Information Technology

- Provide **technical support** and develop repository of best practices
- **Knowledge portal** supports AHRQ's health IT grantees by providing knowledge resources and extensive opportunities to tap national experts and collaborate with peers online.
- AHRQ will provide **expanded access** to the knowledge portal to:
 - Federally funded community health centers
 - Rural hospitals/ clinics (through Office of Rural Health Policy, HRSA)

HRSA/Office of Health IT

■ Mission:

The Office of Health Information Technology (OHIT) promotes the adoption and effective use of health information technology (HIT) in the safety net community.

OHIT Includes:

- Division of Health Information Technology Policy
- Division of Health Information Technology State and Community Assistance
- Office for the Advancement of Telehealth



OHIT Goals

- Bring HIT to America's safety net providers which will:
 - Improve quality of care
 - Reduce health disparities
 - Increase efficiency in care delivery systems
 - Increase patient safety
 - Decrease medical errors
 - Eliminate the digital divide

Key Partnership Activities with HRSA

- Office of Health IT
 - HIT web portal for HCs and Networks
 - Toolbox development - CHCs, HIV, MCH, Rural
 - NRC Steering Cmte—Annual Conference
 - CBO Research partnership with NIH NCRR
 - Exploring the creation of a CHC RMPS user group
- Bureau of Primary Health Care
 - Policy Forum on Health IT w/ Harvard and Tides Foundation
 - Research in CHCs: focus on HIT and Quality
 - CHC HIT Capacity survey in FY07
- Office of Rural Health Policy
 - Rural portal space
 - Building TA capacity
 - Rural HIT meeting in Sept '06

Building TA Capacity at ORHP's Technical Assistance Center

- Identify issues facing CAHs as it relates to investing in, implementing and integrating HIT into clinical practice.
- Develop key expertise, partnerships and tools for CAHs as they look to invest in HIT. Provide information on all factors that a CAH must take into account as it decides whether to invest in any range of technology that would help improve patient care in small low volume hospitals.
- Gather information on key HIT investment considerations for CAHs from knowledgeable sources including CAH administrators and rural health experts.
- Build the critical knowledge base of the TASC in the area of HIT as it serves SRH Flex Grantees.



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