

HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Terminology

Application Service Provider (ASP)

ASP software products are web-based applications that do not require a physician to own or maintain the server. The software and database contents (patient data) are remotely stored, backed-up, serviced and upgraded by the vendor. Typically ASP products reduce the cost to implement a software product because the physician does not have to purchase a server or hire technical support. However, if internet service is out or slow, the practice will not be able to access the EMR applications.

CCHIT (Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology)

The Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology is a recognized certification body (RCB) for electronic health records and their networks, and an independent, voluntary, private-sector initiative. It is the mission of the CCHIT to accelerate the adoption of health information technology by creating an efficient, credible and sustainable certification program. The Certification Commission is a nonprofit organization which employs a small staff to assist in the coordination of volunteer development efforts, communication and outreach, and the administration of certification testing.

Computerized Physician Order Entry (CPOE)

Software used by physicians to electronically submit requests for diagnostic exams/tests and receive test results electronically. Can be used in an inpatient setting or an outpatient setting, assuming the clinical departments conducting the exams/tests are capable of transmitting electronic messages to the physician's system.

EHR (Electronic Health Record) and EMR (Electronic Medical Record)

A record consisting of an individual's history of health status and medical care.

EHR vs. EMR

There are many definitions of EHR and EMR - for almost every person there may be just as many definitions. The terms are frequently used interchangeably. EMRs may not be interoperable outside of the "home" enterprise (i.e. with other EMRs). The term EHR implies a level of interoperability with other EMRs. The implication of "Health" rather than "Medical" record in the term EHR is that it is a longitudinal record across time and providers. The EHR is generally not considered "owned" by any one physician because the information is not generally sourced by a single provider.

Electronic Prescribing

Software that allows for prescriptions to be transmitted electronically to the pharmacy's computer system. Other functions of electronic prescribing may include patient eligibility verification with health plan, co-pay information, formulary data, medication history, "fill" status and medication alerts. Electronic prescribing may be part of an EMR application or a stand-alone software system.

Fax Prescribing

Some pharmacies are not set up to receive electronic prescription information. In this case, some EMR vendors will convert the electronic information received from a physician to a paper form to be faxed by a third party service to the pharmacy.

HIE (Health Information Exchange)

The electronic movement of health-related information among organizations according to nationally recognized standards.

HIO (Health Information Organization)

An organization that oversees and governs the exchange of health-related information among organizations according to nationally recognized standards.

HIT (Health Information Technology)

The software and infrastructure used in the clinical practice of medicine to support documentation, storage and exchange of patient data. Examples include EMRs, e-prescribing and CPOE.

Interface vs. Integrate

Integration means that two computer applications can exchange data

in a form that each can understand and act upon. Integration results when application exchange data using standard formats and standard coded terminologies. Interface or application programming interface (API) is the method by which applications automatically exchange data with other applications.

Interoperability

The ability of clinical or patient data to transfer between providers in various settings and their various software packages. If a physician's EMR is not interoperable, physicians would only be able to access information within their own EMR application's database.

Patient Portal

A web site where patients can look for educational information and links to other sources of information that are recommended by the clinician. Patients may also use the portal to exchange messages through a secure connection with the physician and also schedule appointments and order refills of prescriptions.

PHRs (Personal Health Records)

The PHR includes data such as critical current health and medical history information. It also includes information that is tracked by the patient such as personal health maintenance and over the counter medications. For example, it would include daily tracking of insulin levels for diabetics.

Practice Management System

The software used by physicians for scheduling, registration, billing and receivables management. Many EMR vendors also offer practice management systems that are fully integrated with the clinical EHR software. If the EMR vendor does not offer a practice management system or the practice does not want to change systems, it is important to understand how the practice management system and EHR will interface so patient information is consistent between the two systems.

RHIO (Regional Health Information Organization)

RHIOs provide the organizational and technical infrastructure to exchange data among health care providers in a geographic region.

Source Code Escrow

Often places in the form of a contract clause which details what happens in the event a vendor goes out of business or is acquired and how a third-party organization will hold the vendor's intellectual property and documentation to protect you.

SureScripts Gold Standard GoldRx™ is granted to EMRs and e-prescribing solutions that have established connectivity to the Pharmacy Health Information Exchange. GoldRx™ certified vendors provide all of the five following services: e-prescribing, e-refills, RxHistory, eligibility, and formulary. Criteria for certification include:

- Customer Education: companies raise awareness among physician customers of the opportunity to communicate new prescription and refill information with pharmacists electronically.
- Proven Pharmacy Interoperability: companies must make pharmacy interoperability part of every new client installation
- Advanced Medication Management: certified vendors must enable their software application to receive medication history from community pharmacy and formulary/eligibility services from the payers and PBMs certified by SureScripts.
- Workflow Enhancement: certified vendors meet specific service level requirements related to operations of the Pharmacy Health Information Exchange.
- Demonstrable Expertise: vendors must prove experience with the process of electronic prescribing by meeting benchmarks for adding new, "active" prescribers For more information regarding SureScripts Gold Standard visit www.surescripts.com

Virtual Private Network

(VPN) a network that uses a public telecommunication infrastructure, i.e. the internet, to provide remote offices/individual users with secure access to their organization's network.