EHR Adoption Resources and Tools
American Academy of Family Physicians 2006

The Center for Health Information Technology of the American Academy of Family Physicians, AAFP, is dedicated to assisting physicians acquire and use affordable, standards-based EHRs and other HIT, for the purposes of improving quality, enhancing patient safety, and making gains in practice efficiency.

The following tools and resources are among those developed during the past three years by the Center to advance this goal. During this time, the number of family physicians who use an EHR in their practices has increased significantly, from approximately ten percent to thirty percent of the AAFP's active membership.

Consultative HIT Services are offered to a wide range of healthcare organizations and practices by physician staff of the AAFP's Center for Health Information Technology. These services include physician engagement programs, vendor selection, HIT strategic planning and deployment, and technical seminars on connectivity and interoperability. Clients have included individual medical groups, hospital systems, PHOs, major employers, health plans, and high technology firms, among others.

*Member discounts on EHRs and computer hardware. The AAFP Center for Health Information Technology is able to offer AAFP members significant discounts on software and hardware purchases, through the 97-member Partners for Patients program and the Online Buying Center.

*The EHR Physician Product Reviewer™ – the 'Consumer Reports' of ambulatory electronic health record systems products and services for physicians, by physicians
- Includes over 550 reviews of EHR products and services, written by AAFP members who use them in their practices
- Currently includes 68 EHR products reviewed in detail
- Product information covers average price, number of installs by practice size, years in the market, geographical sales area, and company size
- AAFP members use the Reviewer extensively in selecting vendors, arranging site visits, and for negotiating

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*Searchable Family Physician EHR User Directory – a Growing Database

- "Find a physician like me, in a practice like mine, who uses an EHR"
- Searchable by specific EHR product
- Searchable by location of practice
- Offers ability to contact EHR user for questions, site visits, etc.
- http://www.centerforhit.org/mem/cgi-bin/findfriend.pl

*The EHR/HIT Online Readiness Assessment Tool

- 32 questions, web –based assessment for the practicing physician and his or her staff who are in the market for an EHR system
- Responses are algorithmically scored and linked to Center for HIT web site tutorials and other resources dealing with practice preparation, vendor selection, and EHR implementation
- May be used by single physician, or by groups, and has been utilized during live seminars and workshops
- http://www.centerforhit.org/mem/cgi-bin/survey.pl?op=show_quiz&gid=1479

Online tutorials for each step of EHR adoption, including: practice preparation and redesign, EHR selection, implementation of EHRs in ambulatory practices, and maintenance/upgrade of systems and infrastructure

- EHR Tutorials: http://www.centerforhit.org/x1073.xml
- Hardware Tutorials: http://www.centerforhit.org/x1076.xml
- Networking Tutorials: http://www.centerforhit.org/x1079.xml
- Implementation Tutorials: http://www.centerforhit.org/x1085.xml
- **All tutorials are being converted to web-based CME modules during the first half 2006. These will be titled "The HIT Series for Physicians."**

Bibliography of EHR and health-IT articles from AAFP journals and News

- A resource including dozens of "how to" and experience-based articles and reviews on a wide range of HIT topics of vital interest to the practicing physician and his or her staff.

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- http://www.centerforhit.org/x574.xml

EHR Master Quotation Guide

- This guide to comparing master quotations from three or more ambulatory care EHR vendors is the small practice's way to do an RFP, without the cost or hassle
- Developed in collaboration with the eHealth Initiative, 2005
- http://www.centerforhit.org/x1391.xml

*AAFP member EMR email discussion list

- >900 physician members, many more users.
- A forum for members to discuss all aspects of Health-IT. The list is moderated by CHiT staff
- http://www.centerforhit.org/x687.xml

Residency EMR email discussion list

- >100 residency faculty and medical director members, many more users.
- A forum for residency faculty from any family practice residency to discuss health-IT issue specific to residency training
- http://www.centerforhit.org/x1342.xml

* These resources are currently for AAFP members only. The AAFP is considering to the best manner for opening these resources to other medical society members in the future. (A guest password can be issued should non-members wish to evaluate these resources.)