

Project Title: Building an Implementation Toolset for E-Prescribing
Principal Investigator: Bell, Douglas, M.D.
Organization: RAND Corporation
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Strategic Goal: Develop and disseminate health IT evidence and evidence-based tools to improve the quality and safety of medication management via the integration and utilization of medication management systems and technologies.

Business Goal: Implementation and Use

Summary: This project is developing and testing an e-prescribing toolset that will act as a “how-to” guide for implementing e-prescribing across various ambulatory organizational settings. The project, still in its early stages of progress, includes: 1) an environmental scan of current e-prescribing implementation programs, both nationally and internationally; 2) detailed analysis of successful e-prescribing implementations in several organizational configurations, including large and small practice and safety net settings; 3) development of an implementation toolset based on these findings; and 4) pilot testing of e-prescribing implementation using the toolset. The toolset will include guidance on the complete life cycle of activities expected to contribute to successful implementation, covering technology requirements, workflow analysis tools, governance agreement templates, etc. The focus of the pilot implementation is not on the implementation itself, but on the completeness and usability of the toolset.

Specific Aims

- Catalogue publicly announced, ongoing e-prescribing initiatives both in the United States and abroad, and describe their major features, including the participating organizations, the range of practice sizes and settings involved, the e-prescribing technologies used, the degree of successful adoption and use, and the degree to which stated goals have been achieved. **(Ongoing)**
- Analyze the experiences of several successful e-prescribing initiatives, assessing the extent to which implementation success is attributable to key practices or features, such as governance agreements, organizational characteristics, individual attitudes and motivations, prescription-related work processes, specific e-prescribing technologies and standards used, distinctive implementation practices, and estimated costs (versus savings) for each participating organization. **(Ongoing)**
- Create a draft E-Prescribing Implementation Toolset that provides organizations with guidance and customizable aids to help them follow the practices or develop characteristics that contribute to implementation success. The guidance would include sample governance agreements, workflow patterns and feasible work process transitions, and direction on other key organizational factors that support adoption of innovations such as leadership, organizational culture, employee involvement, training, and performance evaluation and incentives. **(Ongoing)**
- Evaluate the draft Toolset’s usability and usefulness in helping provider organizations representing a broad range of practices to implement e-prescribing. Changes in provider performance in generic prescribing and in other available quality measures will also be assessed based on results before and after implementation. **(Upcoming)**

- Create a final E-Prescribing Implementation Toolset based on findings from the pilot evaluation that organizations and communities can use to guide decisionmaking about and implementation of e-prescribing, and disseminate this Toolset nationally through AHRQ's Health IT Portal, presentations at live and online conferences, and peer-reviewed publications. (**Upcoming**)

2008 Activities: In 2008, data gathering, integration, and analysis of data for the United States environmental scan were completed. The interviews and initial draft of report on European e-prescribing implementation methods were also completed. The project completed instruments and Institutional Review Board (IRB) applications for site visits to collect data on successful e-prescribing implementations and analysis of existing tools for possible inclusion in the Toolset. Finally, we completed an outline of chapters for the final Toolset document that will integrate and provide a guide to using the best tools in e-prescribing implementation.

Preliminary Impact and Findings: Project is ongoing; preliminary findings not yet available.

Selected Outputs

None Available.