

Project Title:	Conducting Measurement Activities for Health Information Technology Initiative
Principal Investigator:	Spranca, Mark D., Ph.D.
Organization:	Abt Associates, Inc.
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Summary Status as of:	December 2008

Strategic Goal: Develop and disseminate health IT evidence and evidence-based tools to support patient-centered care, the coordination of care across transitions in care settings, and the use of electronic exchange of health information to improve quality of care.

Business Goal: Knowledge Creation

Summary: Over the past 35 years, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and its predecessor agencies have made development of informatics an agency priority. In addition, AHRQ-supported research has played a central role in identifying the need for improvements where health information technology (IT) was applicable.

Given the significant investment by this initiative, there is a growing need to assess adoption and performance of health IT overall and to try to set benchmarks on which to gauge future performance.

The overarching goal of this ongoing project is to identify appropriate program performance measures that reflect the current focus of the health IT initiative at AHRQ and identify data sources to track those measures. The specific aims are to: support the work of the AHRQ health IT portfolio by providing suitable data, provide information on key questions related to health IT in order to inform activities of the initiative, and inform the health IT field.

Specific Aims

- Develop reliable, valid, useful, timely, and cost-efficient measures and national estimates for four key measures of health IT progress:
 - Reduction in medication errors due to adoption of computerized provider order entry (CPOE) systems. **(Ongoing)**
 - The number of patients who can electronically access information on medication therapy. **(Upcoming)**
 - The number of clinicians who can electronically access evidence-based prevention or treatment information. **(Ongoing)**
 - The number of clinician organizations who have adopted evidence-based decision support technologies. **(Ongoing)**

AHRQ will use these measures to inform the activities of the AHRQ Health IT portfolio and to gauge national progress toward health IT adoption goals. Additionally, AHRQ will use this project as a model for future measure development efforts.

2008 Activities:

- Identified and defined work plans for each of the four Measurement Areas (delineated in Specific Aims)
- Developed analysis plans for all Measurement Areas
- Completed data collection on Measurement Areas 1, 3, and 4
- Developed and cognitively tested a new English- and Spanish-language survey instrument for Measurement Area 2
- Submitted survey for Measurement Area 2 to Office of Management and Budget for approval

Preliminary Impact and Findings: None available.

Selected Outputs

None available.