



HANDOUT:

Safe Practice Recommendations for Developing, Implementing, and Integrating a Health IT Safety Program

Health IT Safety = ICE

Integrate

Identify ways to integrate health information technology (IT) safety into existing safety programs.

Rationale for practice: Integrating health IT into a safety program presumes that the entity has a robust safety program in place. The elements of a good risk program include risk identification, risk prevention, risk mitigation, risk control, and risk assumption. Those identified risks are analyzed, solutions are developed and implemented, and results are monitored and adjusted as needed. Creating awareness of the health IT issues and concerns and identifying new ways that health IT promotes safety is a primary reason for integrating health IT into a safety program. It is important to secure leadership support by leveraging these existing structures whenever possible and to evaluate issues that can arise across the life cycle of the technology or software.

Stakeholders impacted: Providers, vendor/developers, leadership, healthcare, and supplier organizations

Collaborate

Convene the necessary stakeholders, including users, vendors, organizations, and patients to actively collaborate on safety.

Rationale for Practice: A safety program that addresses health IT safety needs to include a broader group of stakeholders than that which is incorporated into a general safety program. This may vary by entity (vendor/developer, provider, healthcare organization). Included in this group are the vendor developers, information technology experts and staff, and those providers not only using the technology, but expert in how to address risks and the potential benefits of using technology for safety. Such collaboration supports a continuing learning environment.

Stakeholders impacted: Providers, vendor/developers, leadership, patients

Embed

Embed safety into the culture and daily workflow to achieve a unified vision of health IT safety.

Rationale for Practice: Health IT is ubiquitous and facilitates safety, but may also have unintended consequences. When health IT safety is embedded into an organization's culture, it is possible to prioritize risks and recognize the benefits of health IT in a nonpunitive transparent learning environment.

Stakeholders impacted: Providers, vendor/developers, patients, leadership