

ONC Highlights

“Electronic Health Records and Diabetes Care”

New England Journal of Medicine special article, September 1, 2011

New Report Finds that EHR Use Results in Higher Quality Care

Research published in the prestigious *New England Journal of Medicine* adds to the growing body of evidence showing that electronic medical records (EHRs) enable providers to deliver higher quality care to the patients they serve.

About the Study

- The study looked at practices treating more than 27,000 adults with diabetes in the Cleveland, Ohio area. It found that patients being treated by physicians using EHRs were significantly more likely to receive care that aligns with accepted treatment standards, and had better outcomes than patients being treated by physicians who rely on paper records.
- Annual improvements in meeting care standards and quality outcomes were faster in practices with EHRs than paper-based practices.
- Benefits from EHR-use were widespread across different types of practices (including safety net providers) treating patients covered by different types of insurance, including Medicaid.

Worth Quoting

“Across all insurance types, EHR sites were associated with significantly higher achievement of care and outcome standards and greater improvement in diabetes care.”

“EHR sites showed higher achievement of all components of the composite standard for care. For diabetes outcomes, 43.7% of patients at EHR sites and 15.7% of those at paper-based sites had outcomes that met at least four of the five standards, a difference of 28.0 percentage points.”

“These findings support the premise that federal policies encouraging the meaningful use of EHRs may improve the quality of care across all insurance types.”

Meaningful Use of EHRs is the Foundation for Better Care and Improved Health

The NEJM study shows that providers who use EHRs in a meaningful way, especially to support collaborative efforts to enhance quality, can markedly improve care for their patients. Meaningful use of EHRs helps to: empower patients in adherence to the best standards for monitoring and treating chronic diseases; ensure timely delivery of preventive care; enable better coordination among different providers; facilitate rapid improvement of care quality and outcomes.

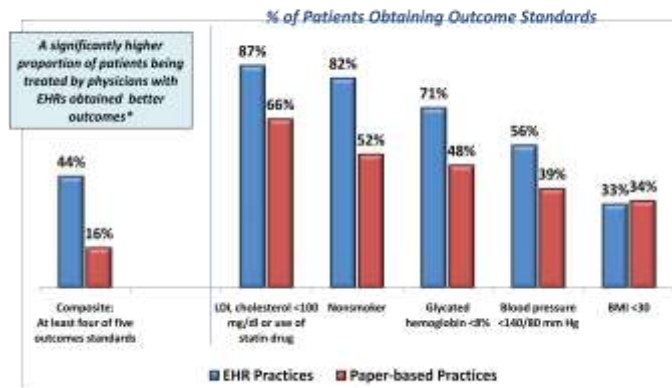
Federal Assistance

Findings from the study support the premise that Federal policies to encourage the adoption and meaningful use of EHRs are a key element of transforming care delivery. We are supporting these efforts in a variety of ways:

- Medicare and Medicaid incentives available to eligible professionals and hospitals who demonstrate meaningful use of EHRs
- Regional Extension Centers
- Beacon Communities
- State Health Information Exchanges
- Health IT workforce education and training programs

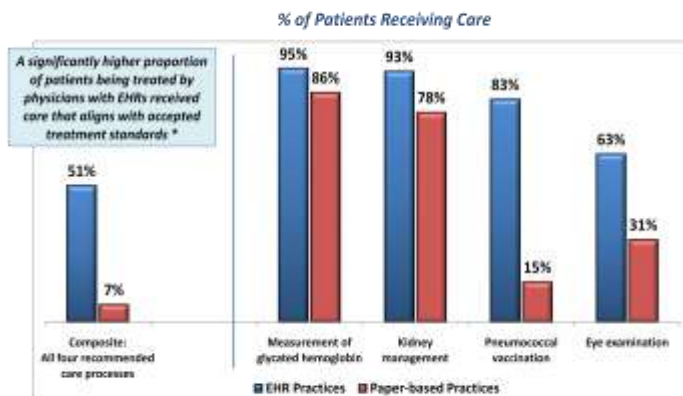
Together, these programs are rapidly facilitating the widespread adoption and meaningful use of health IT throughout the country. They also help lay the foundation for innovative payment and delivery programs, such as accountable care organizations, patient-centered medical homes and other approaches that reward high quality, coordinated care.

**Health Outcomes for Diabetes Patients:
Patients treated by Physicians using EHR vs. Paper Medical
Records**



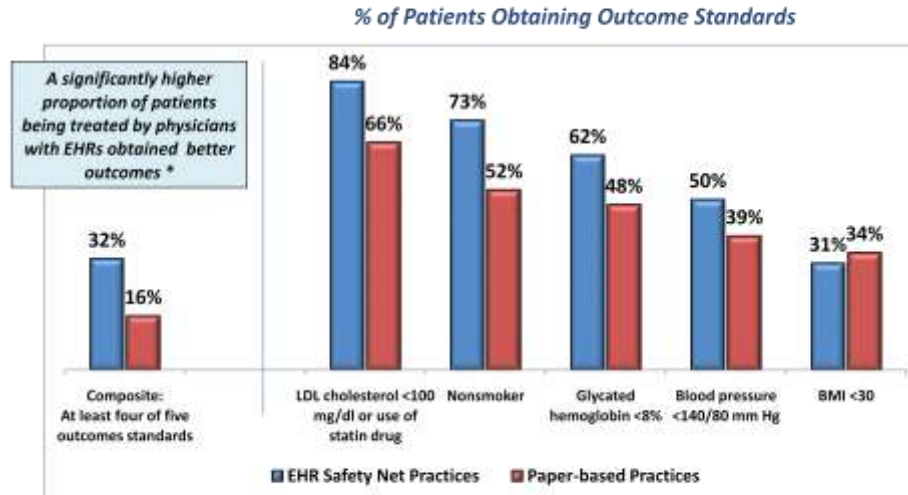
Source: Cobuz, Randall D., et al. *New England Journal of Medicine*, August 2011. * Even after adjusting for patient demographic characteristics and insurance type, differences remain significant; $p < 0.005$.

**Quality of Diabetes Care:
Patients Treated by Physicians using EHR vs. Paper Medical
Records**



Source: Cobuz, Randall D., et al. *New England Journal of Medicine*, August 2011. * Even after adjusting for patient demographic characteristics and insurance type, differences remain significant; $p < 0.005$.

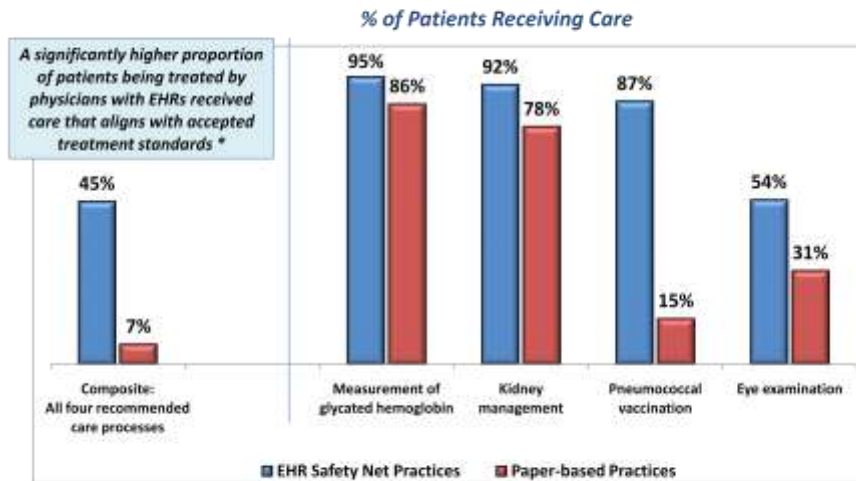
Health Outcomes for Diabetes Patients at Safety Net Practices: Patients treated by Physicians using EHR vs. Paper Medical Records



Source: Cebul, Randall D., et al. *New England Journal of Medicine*, August 2011

* Even after adjusting for patient demographic characteristics and insurance type, differences remain significant p<0.002

Quality of Diabetes Care at Safety Net Practices: Patients Treated by Physicians using EHR vs. Paper Medical Records



Source: Cebul, Randall D., et al. *New England Journal of Medicine*, August 2011

* Even after adjusting for patient demographic characteristics and insurance type, differences remain significant; p<0.001

Cebul, R. D., M.D.; et al. (2011). Electronic Health Records and Quality of Diabetes Care. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 365:825-833. Retrieved from <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMsa1102519#t=article>