



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

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Health IT Safety: Highlights from AHRQ's Research Portfolio

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Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

- AHRQ's mission
 - ▶ *To produce evidence to make health care safer, higher quality, more accessible, equitable, and affordable, and to work within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and with other partners to make sure that the evidence is understood and used*
- AHRQ's Division of Health IT
 - ▶ Develops and disseminates evidence to inform policy and practice on how health information technology can improve the quality of health care



AHRQ Health IT Research

- Current health IT research portfolio
 - ▶ Approximately 125 active grants
 - ▶ Approximately \$126 million across all grants and project periods
 - ▶ Range of mechanisms and sizes
- Wide spectrum of topics
 - ▶ Clinical decision support
 - ▶ Mobile health and telehealth
 - ▶ Health IT design and implementation
 - ▶ Health IT safety



Health IT Safety

- Two broad research areas
 - ▶ Health IT to improve patient safety
 - ▶ Safe use of health IT
- Current Special Emphasis Notice
 - ▶ Interest in funding applications that will conduct research on safe health IT practices specifically related to the design, implementation, usability, and safe use of health IT by all users, including patients
 - ▶ <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HS-16-009.html>



Measuring Health IT Safety

- Two grants
 - ▶ “Assess Risk of Wrong Patient Errors in an EMR that Allows Multiple Records Open” (R21)
 - ▶ “Develop and Validate Health IT Safety Measures to Capture Violations of the 5 Rights of Medication Safety” (R01)
- Principal Investigator
 - ▶ Jason Adelman (Columbia University)
- Methods
 - ▶ Retract-And-Reorder
 - ▶ First health IT safety quality measure to be endorsed by the National Quality Forum



Assessing Health IT Implementation

- “Ensuring Safe Performance of Electronic Health Records” (R01)
- Principal Investigator
 - ▶ David Bates (Brigham and Women’s Hospital)
 - ▶ David Classen (Co-I, University of Utah)
- Updating a Computerized Provider Order Entry (CPOE) “flight simulator”
 - ▶ Evaluating the national experience using the existing tool
 - ▶ Modernizing the tool (e.g., technical platform, formularies)
 - ▶ Enhancing the tool with new domains (e.g., central line infection prevention) and new capabilities (e.g., usability testing)



To Learn More...

- Recent AHRQ event:
 - ▶ “A National Web Conference on Assessing Safety Risks Associated with EHRs” on August 29, 2016
 - ▶ <https://healthit.ahrq.gov/events>
- AHRQ Health IT
 - ▶ <https://healthit.ahrq.gov/>
- AHRQ funding opportunities
 - ▶ <http://www.ahrq.gov/funding/fund-ops/index.html>
- Health IT Safety Special Emphasis Notice
 - ▶ <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HS-16-009.html>



Contact Information

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