

Evaluation of the Electronic Health Records (EHR) Demonstration

**Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**

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**EHR Demonstration Evaluation Contractor
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EHR Demonstration Evaluation

Evaluation Goals

- **Assess effect of the demonstration on:**
 - Adoption and use of electronic health records
 - Quality of care
 - Utilization and cost of Medicare services
- **Examine association between use of EHRs and quality of care**

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EHR Demonstration Evaluation

Confidentiality

- **All data will be aggregated at the site (state / region) level for analysis**
- **None of the practices, physicians, or beneficiaries will be identified or identifiable in the reports**

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EHR Demonstration Evaluation Evaluation Design

- Stratified randomization
- Stratification variables
 - Site
 - Size
 - Location (Medically underserved area/population (MUA/P))
- Practices assigned in equal proportions to treatment or control group within each strata

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EHR Demonstration Evaluation Data Sources for Evaluation

- Site visits and telephone interviews
- Physician survey
- Office systems survey
- Beneficiary survey
- Quality measures
- Medicare claims data

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**EHR Demonstration Evaluation
Site Visits/Telephone Interviews**

- Practices
- Community Partners
- Practices that withdrew from demonstration

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**EHR Demonstration Evaluation
Site Visits/Telephone Interviews
Practices**

Two rounds per site (1st and 5th year)

- Four treatment group practices
- Two control group practices

Selection Criteria will include:

- Practice size
- Location
- Level of EHR use at start of demonstration

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**EHR Demonstration Evaluation
Site Visits/Telephone Interviews
Practices**

Purpose:

- Identify factors that helped or hindered practice in implementing EHRs
- Identify changes practice made in response to the demonstration in:
 - Work flow redesign
 - Care management
 - Use of EHRs

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**EHR Demonstration Evaluation
Site Visits/Telephone Interviews
Community Partners**

Two contacts either by telephone or in person

(one contact prior to each round of practice visits)

Purpose:

- Gain their perspective on effect of the demonstration on participating practices
- Type and extent of assistance to practices
- Identify other pay-for-performance and HIT/EHR initiatives in the local market area

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**EHR Demonstration Evaluation
Site Visits/Telephone Interviews
Practices that Withdrew**

One telephone contact with up to 12 practices

Purpose

- **Determine reasons practices withdrew from the demonstration**
- **Obtain their perspective on what would have enabled them to remain in the demonstration**

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**EHR Demonstration Evaluation
Physician Survey**

Purpose

- **Measure impacts of the demonstration on physician level adoption and use of EHRs**

Survey Sample size

- **66 physicians in treatment and 66 in control group in each site (total of 528)**

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EHR Demonstration Evaluation Office Systems Survey

Purpose

- Measure changes over time in practice level use of EHR and related functionalities

Target

- All treatment group practices annually
- Control group practices at end of second and fifth demonstration years

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EHR Demonstration Evaluation Beneficiary Survey

Purpose

- Satisfaction with care
- Perspective on care coordination
- Access to care
- Health related knowledge and behavior

Survey Sample Size

- 200 in treatment and 200 in control group in each site (total: 1600)

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EHR Demonstration Evaluation Quality of Care Measures

Purpose:

- Examine treatment/control group differences in quality of care (data from claims and beneficiary survey)

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EHR Demonstration Evaluation Medicare Claims Data

Includes (Parts A, B, and D)

- Medicare service use and cost will be examined and will include:
 - Hospital admissions, readmissions
 - Emergency room use
 - Skilled nursing
 - Home health
 - Outpatient
 - Durable medical equipment
 - Prescription drug use

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EHR Demonstration Evaluation Analysis

Qualitative Analysis

- Site specific descriptive analysis (site visits and telephone interviews)

Impact Analysis (site specific and overall)

- Comparison of treatment and control groups in
 - Level of HIT/EHR use (practices and physicians)
 - Beneficiary satisfaction and care access
 - Quality and coordination of care
 - Service utilization and cost

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EHR Demonstration Evaluation Analysis

Other

- Examine associations between EHR use and quality of care over time in the treatment group

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EHR Demonstration Evaluation Reports

- Implementation report
- Interim evaluation report
- Final evaluation report
- Annual cost monitoring reports

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EHR Demonstration Evaluation

QUESTIONS?

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