Culture of Safety Assessment for Health IT

A focus on safe design, safe development, safe implementation, and safe use of health IT leads to safer health IT products and their use in safer care.

The importance of this statement is consistent with the EHR Developer Code of Conduct, issued by the Electronic Health Record Association. Organizations that develop EHRs and health IT leverage a foundational culture of safety to achieve the goal and outcome of safer health IT products and their use in safer care.

To support safer development, implementation, and use across the product lifecycle, ECRI Institute has developed a tool that empowers you to assess your own organization's safety culture. This online assessment tool—hosted on secure servers—is specialized for health IT vendors and developers, providing confidentiality for organizations and team members. Such confidentiality enables the collection and use of candid and actionable survey responses.

Through a brief questionnaire, this tool facilitates the development and implementation of safety-focused action plans, grounded in analyses of the responses of your team members.

ECRI's experience in similar surveys for hospital and health systems demonstrates that monitoring safety-related perceptions and experiences over time, and comparing teams and departments, will strengthen your safety focus and drive safety-related outcomes across your product lifecycles.

This tool will enable you to:

— Evaluate perceptions of safety issues across your teams and departments

— Monitor progress over time

— Assess the adoption of a shared safety responsibility

— Gauge the effectiveness of and needs for safety-related training

— Contrast your results with similar organizations using de-identified comparative data (once enough organizations participate to enable valid comparisons and organizational confidentiality)

— Identify key areas that may require additional focus

Key Areas Addressed:

— Organizational commitment to safety

— Training, education, development, and continuous learning

— Performance standards

— Event reporting and investigation

— Communication and information flow

— Monitoring and resolution

ECRI Institute

About ECRI Institute

As an independent, non-profit organization, ECRI Institute serves as a trusted authority on healthcare practices and products that improve the safety, quality, and cost-effectiveness of patient care. Our integrity has been built on evidence-based research, strict conflict-of-interest policies, and transparent reporting of our findings. We give healthcare professionals the knowledge and assurance they need to make patient safety a top priority in healthcare settings around the world.

About the Partnership for Health IT Patient Safety

The *Partnership for Health IT Patient Safety* is a multi-stakeholder collaborative whose goal is to make health information technology (IT) safer together. The *Partnership* provides a non-punitive learning environment and includes healthcare providers, health IT developers, academic researchers, patient safety organizations, liability insurers, professional societies, and patient advocates. The *Partnership* is supported in part through funding from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

About EHRA

Established in 2004, the Electronic Health Record Association (EHRA) is comprised of more than 30 companies that supply the vast majority of EHRs to physicians' practices and hospitals across the United States. EHRA operates on the premise that the rapid, widespread adoption of EHRs will help improve the quality of patient care as well as the productivity and sustainability of the healthcare system as a key enabler of healthcare transformation. EHRA and its members are committed to supporting safe healthcare delivery, fostering continued innovation, and operating with high integrity in the market for our users and their patients and families. EHRA supports efforts such as ECRI Institute's INsight® Culture of Safety Assessment for Health IT Companies.

Take the first step to assess your safety culture.

To learn more about INsight Culture of Safety Assessment for Health IT Companies, e-mail hit@ecri.org or visit www.ecri.org/HITculture.

ECRI Institute

PARTNERSHIP *for* **HEALTH IT PATIENT SAFETY** *a national collaborative*

EHRA HIMSS Electronic Health Record Association