

Health Information Technology for Consumers

Glossary

April 20, 2009

Electronic Health Record. Electronically maintained information about an individual's health status and health care. EHRs include real-time data on patients' health and include evidence-based support tools that help clinicians in making decisions. Information should be provided in a patient-centric view of individual care and also in an aggregate view to support quality improvement.

Personal Health Record. Electronic record on a patient's health, which is controlled by the patient. The PHR helps patients manage and maintain their own health.

Health Information Exchange. The mobilization of health care information electronically across organizations and information systems.

De-identified data. Patient information without individually identifiable data.

Health Information Technology. The application of information processing involving both computer hardware and software that deals with the storage, retrieval, sharing, and use of health care information, data, and knowledge for communication and decision making.

For a more comprehensive glossary go to Health Information Technology, US Dept. of Health and Human Services, accessed 4/20/09, <http://healthit.hhs.gov>