

# Health IT 101

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Health Information Technology (or “Health IT”) systems benefit patients and health care providers by using technology to increase the timeliness and efficiency of health care delivery, improve health monitoring, and enhance the privacy and security of health information.

Health IT is a broad term that includes many different types of technologies. Health IT refers to electronic systems that support health care using computer hardware, software, or infrastructure to record, store, protect, and retrieve clinical, administrative, or financial health information.

Types of Health IT include:

- **Electronic Health Record (EHR):** an electronic version of a patient’s medical history that is maintained by the provider over time, including administrative and clinical data relevant to patients’ care under that provider. EHRs can include demographics, progress notes, problems, medications, vital signs, past medical history, immunizations, laboratory data, and radiology reports. EHRs automate access to patient health care information and can support other care-related activities.
- **Health Information Exchange (HIE):** the secure, electronic transmission of health care-related data among medical providers, facilities, patients, and health information organizations. HIE improves the quality, safety, and cost of patient care. Health information includes medical history, current medications, lab results, and allergies. Timely electronic sharing of health information can help providers make better decisions about patient care.
- **ePrescribing:** allows health care professionals to electronically send a new, changed, refilled, or canceled prescription to a pharmacy. ePrescribing improves patient safety and medication adherence, increases efficiency and security, and helps fight opioid abuse.
- **Telehealth:** the use of technology to provide health care services from a distance. Telehealth is used to deliver a wide range of medical services including diagnosis and management, education, and other health care needs.