

HIT Terms

Many people use the terms *EMR*, *EHR* and *registries* interchangeably. However, the terms refer to three distinct items, with key differences:

Electronic Medical Record (EMR): An electronic record used to document, monitor and manage health care delivery within a care delivery organization (CDO), e.g. physician's office. The data is the legal record of what happened to the patient during their encounter at the CDO and is owned by the CDO.

The Electronic Health Record (EHR): A longitudinal electronic record of patient health information generated by one or more encounters in any care delivery setting. Included in this information are patient demographics, progress notes, problems, medications, vital signs, past medical history, immunizations, laboratory data and radiology reports. The EHR has the ability to generate a complete record of a clinical patient encounter - as well as supporting other care-related activities directly or indirectly via interface - including evidence-based decision support, quality management, and outcomes reporting. Information may be shared by providers in different CDOs.

Registry: A system that tracks and manages disease-specific information for individual patients and populations. Often used to track treatment of chronic diseases, such as diabetes. May be a standalone system or part of an EMR.

Sources: HIMSS, California Healthcare Foundation