

Technical Readiness

You and your staff won't be able to maximize an Electronic Health Record or other health information technologies unless everyone is comfortable with them. The American Medical Association offers this advice as part of its medical practice self-assessment. For previous tips, click on "EHR Success" under the "Past Weekly HIT Features" section of this website.

- Be aware of your staff's level of comfort with technology.
- If you don't know the first thing about hard-drives and bandwidth, read-up and ask questions.
- Make sure that everyone in your practice has done plenty of trainings and run-throughs and is comfortable with "model" patient encounters.
- Gather information about the new hardware and infrastructure you will need to use Health IT effectively (high-speed internet connection, adequate hard-drives and back-up systems, PCs for necessary workstations, etc.). Make sure you have interrogated your potential vendor! Use their expertise. Take advantage of site-visits, presentations and trainings.
- Once you have the technology in place, conduct plenty of task trials, walk-throughs and model visits. The more time you spend with your new technology, the easier your transition will be.