

2013 Hospital Health Information Technology Assessment

Abstract:

Optimized use of health information technology (health IT) among disparate health care organizations has the potential to reduce health care costs, create efficiencies, improve communications and quality of care. Health IT serves as the infrastructure to enable care transformation by improving the flow of information across health care systems. This is the fifth year the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) has conducted the annual Hospital Health Information Technology Survey (survey) with all 46 Maryland acute care hospital Chief Information Officers (CIOs). The survey captures State hospital health IT adoption rates and plans for adoption of the following technologies: electronic health records (EHRs), computerized physician order entry, electronic prescribing, electronic medication administration records, bar code medication administration, infection surveillance software, statewide health information exchange, and telemedicine. This is the first year that the survey included questions related to patient portal adoption, Meaningful Use, and federal EHR incentive payments. Since 2008, the health IT adoption rate among Maryland hospitals has increased roughly 25 percent. Additionally, Maryland hospitals exceeded national adoption rates in eight out of 10 technologies assessed where national comparisons are available. As the federal government pushes for greater use of technology in the health care industry to replace inefficient paper-based solutions, CIOs are becoming more involved in strategic development and business operations to support the drive for increased use of technology. Over the next several years, hospitals will likely continue to build adaptive information-driven infrastructures that can support health care reform.