

# Assessment of the Clinical Knowledge Management Capabilities of Nine Commercially-available Electronic Health Records

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## Background

With the recent passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which provides over \$40 billion in financial incentives to hospitals and physicians that implement state-of-the-art EHR systems, the pressure on commercial EHR vendors to deliver high-quality, full-featured, and easy to use systems has increased significantly.

We undertook a study to explore the availability of various clinical knowledge management features, functions, tools and techniques provided by nine commercially available EHR vendors serving the USA marketplace.

## Conclusions

We were pleasantly surprised at the relatively high level of overall clinical decision support and knowledge management functionality provided by these vendors.

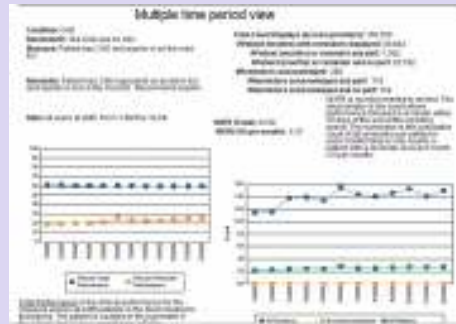
The majority of the systems were capable of performing almost all of the key knowledge management functions we identified.

If these well-designed systems are coupled with the other key socio-technical concepts required for safe and effective EHR implementation and use, we expect that the transformation of the healthcare enterprise that so many have predicted, is just around the corner.

All of the vendors have multiple modules capable of providing CDS interventions, ranging from disease management templates to drug-drug interaction checking



Six of the vendors have the ability to report on the effectiveness of the CDS interventions they deliver



All of the vendors provided their customers with a "starter set" of clinical content



Three vendors support the HL-7 InfoButton standard, although three others have a similar functionality



Four vendors are able to utilize content from other commercial vendors

