



Health Care Quality Reporting Program – Health Information Technology (HIT) Survey

APRN and PA Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Last Updated, 4/17/14

Beginning in 2013, the Rhode Island Department of Health (HEALTH) expanded its annual HIT Survey from physicians to also include all Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) and Physician Assistants (PAs) who provide direct patient care in Rhode Island. We did not publicly report individual APRN and PA data in 2013. Beginning in 2014, the public report will include individual information about APRNs and PAs.

These FAQs were mailed with the hard copy notice of the 2014 HIT Survey, which is available online from April 30, 2014 to June 30, 2014. If you have questions about the survey, please read this FAQ first. If the FAQ does not answer your questions, please email the Healthcare Quality Reporting Program at HITSurvey@health.ri.gov.

BACKGROUND

1. Why am I receiving the HIT Survey?

HEALTH has a legislatively-mandated public reporting program that publishes information from the HIT Survey annually. The survey began with physicians. In 2013, HEALTH expanded it to include all APRNs and PAs. We did not publicly report individual APRN and PA data in 2013. Beginning in 2014, the public report will include individual information about APRNs and PAs. Because your use of electronic health records (EHRs) and e-prescribing changes over time, we ask you to update your responses.

2. Will my survey responses be published in 2014?

Yes. In 2014, we will publish individual results for APRNs and PAs, together with the individual data already being published for physicians.

The public report includes five measures of HIT adoption, including use of: (1) “EHR components” (Y/N), (2) a “qualified” EHR (Y/N), (3) basic EHR functionalities (0-100 scale), (4) advanced EHR functionalities (0-100 scale), and (5) e-prescribing (Y/N). You can learn how these measures are calculated at www.health.ri.gov/chic/performance/physician.php.

3. Why does HEALTH collect this information every year?

HEALTH has a legislatively-mandated public reporting program that publishes information from the HIT Survey annually. Beginning in 2014, the public report will include individual information about APRNs and PAs. Because your use of electronic medical records (EMRs) and e-prescribing changes over time, we ask you to complete the survey annually.

4. Why is this mandatory? What does “mandatory” mean?

The state legislature mandated that HEALTH publicly report information about healthcare providers. You are required by HEALTH to submit this information annually. If you do not, non-response is reported as non-use of HIT.

ELIGIBILITY & COMPLETION

5. What’s the survey URL again?

The survey’s URL was sent to you in hard copy and via email (if you provided HEALTH with an email address during licensure). If you are an APRN or a PA, you can access the survey by typing the following into your Web browser:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/APRNPAHIT> (note the “s” on https)

If you are a physician, you can access the survey by typing the following into your Web browser:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/physicianHIT> (note the “s” on https)

6. How long is the survey open?

The 2014 survey will be open for two (2) months, from April 30, 2014 to June 30 2014.

7. Who is eligible to complete this survey?

Physicians (MDs and DOs), APRNs and PAs are eligible to complete the survey if they have active RI licenses, are in active practice and provide direct patient care. HEALTH sent APRNs and PAs a letter specifically about the HIT Survey; physicians received the HIT Survey notification and link as part of their 2014 license renewal process.

8. I'm not an APRN or PA. Should I complete this survey?

This survey targets physicians (MDs and DOs), APRNs and PAs. You do not need to complete it if you are not a physician, APRN or PA. If you are a physician, you can access the survey by typing the following into your Web browser: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/physicianHIT> (note the "s" on https)

9. This doesn't really apply to my specialty. Is it intended for me? Should I complete it?

The survey is mandated for 100% of APRNs and PAs, regardless of your specialty. Please respond to the best of your ability to each question, even if it does not feel directly applicable.

We have created pathways for office/outpatient- and hospital/inpatient-based clinicians, to tailor the questions to differing HIT usage in each of those settings—but realize that the questions may not directly apply to all clinical practice. Please choose the option that best reflects your clinical practice and respond to the best of your ability to each question, even if it does not feel directly applicable.

10. What happens if I don't complete this survey?

You are required by HEALTH to submit this information annually. If you do not, non-response is reported as non-use of HIT.

11. I'm retired. Why did I get this survey?

The APRNs and PAs who receive the survey are identified through HEALTH's licensure database. If you have retired since the database was last updated, you may be included. You can opt not to respond to the survey, knowing that your lack of response will be reported as non-use of HIT (which is likely accurate). You can also complete the first few questions, which will allow us to appropriately exclude you from the survey analysis and report.

12. I practice abroad or in a state other than Rhode Island. Why did I get this survey?

The APRNs and PAs who received the survey were identified through HEALTH's licensure database. You will receive a survey notification if you have a RI license.

Data are only reported for APRNs and PAs with mailing addresses in RI, CT or MA. You can ignore the survey, but please note that non-response will be reported as non-use of HIT. You can also complete the first few questions, which will allow us to appropriately exclude you from the survey analysis and report.

13. Can my Office Manager complete the survey?

The survey asks very specific questions about how you use HIT and is best answered by you, not your Office Manager. It should take about 10 minutes to complete.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

14. I didn't get a copy of the survey. Can you send me one?

The survey is electronic, not on paper. This helps to save you time, since it incorporates skip patterns automatically based on your responses. If you are an APRN or a PA, you can access the survey by typing the following into your Web browser:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/APRNPAHIT> (note the "s" on https)

If you are a physician, you can access the survey by typing the following into your Web browser:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/physicianHIT> (note the "s" on https)

If you cannot access a computer and do not use HIT, you can opt not to respond to the survey, knowing that your lack of response will be reported as non-use of HIT.

15. Can I complete the survey on paper?

HIT Survey FAQ for APRNs and RNs

No, the survey is electronic. This helps to save you time, since it incorporates skip patterns automatically based on your responses. If you cannot access a computer and do not use HIT, you can opt not to respond to the survey, knowing that your lack of response will be reported as non-use of HIT.

16. I tried to access the link, but I couldn't get to the survey.

- If you are typing the URL into your Web browser, please make sure you include the "s" in "https."
- If you are copying and pasting the URL, please make sure that the full URL is pasted into your browser.
- If you still have trouble, please contact HEALTH at HITSurvey@health.ri.gov. We will make every effort to respond to your inquiry within two (2) business days of receipt.

17. I completed the survey. Can I get a confirmation?

No, at this time we are unable to generate confirmation emails. If you need confirmation of your survey completion, please print the thank you page (last page) from your Web browser.

18. I completed the survey, but I still got a reminder email. Were my responses saved?

The survey Web site, SurveyMonkey, tracks response/non-response using your email address. If you responded by typing in the survey URL, rather than clicking on the link emailed to you, you will receive a reminder regardless of your response. Your survey responses are saved and you should disregard the reminder.

19. Can I start the survey and return to finish it later?

No, unfortunately once you begin the survey you must complete it in one setting.

MEASUREMENT & REPORTING

20. What measures are publicly reported based on my responses?

We calculate five measures based on your responses, including use of: (1) "EMR components" (Y/N), (2) a "qualified" EMR (Y/N), (3) basic EMR functionalities (0-100 scale), (4) advanced EMR functionalities (0-100 scale), and (5) e-prescribing (Y/N). You can learn how these measures are calculated at: www.health.ri.gov/chic/performance/physician.php.

21. How were the survey and its measures created?

When creating the original physician survey, HEALTH and Healthcentric Advisors led the survey design in partnership with state agencies, health plans and other organizations, and with input from clinician stakeholder groups. These partnerships help ensure that the survey collects information to support a variety of state needs, while minimizing your data collection burden. The instrument and measures have now been expanded to APRNs and PAs, in recognition of your role in patient care.

COMMENTS

22. It's unfair of HEALTH to report HIT use, but not pay for me to adopt an EHR.

We recognize that there are many barriers to HIT adoption, and the survey provides you with an opportunity to help us understand your unique situation and barriers. Your free-text comments are not publicly reported at the individual clinician level.

23. I'd like to tell you about my positive/negative experiences with EHRs or e-prescribing.

We welcome your input. The survey provides you with an opportunity to share your thoughts. Your free-text comments are not publicly reported at the individual clinician level.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

24. I'd like more information. Where can I learn more?

Please visit the public reporting program's Web site at www.health.ri.gov/chic/performance.

25. My question wasn't answered here. What should I do?

Please contact HEALTH at HITSurvey@health.ri.gov with additional questions. We will make every effort to respond to your inquiry within two (2) business days of receipt.