

2014 EHR Upgrade: TOO MUCH, TOO SOON

Hospitals are being asked to meet the 2014 Edition Electronic Health Records Certification criteria by September 30, 2014. Those who succeed will receive incentives; others will pay penalties. The timeline presents a huge hurdle for all hospitals, whether they are seeking to meet revised Stage 1 or new Stage 2 requirements.

Hospitals face a huge number of challenges in upgrading.



The government requires hospitals to use certified EHR systems.

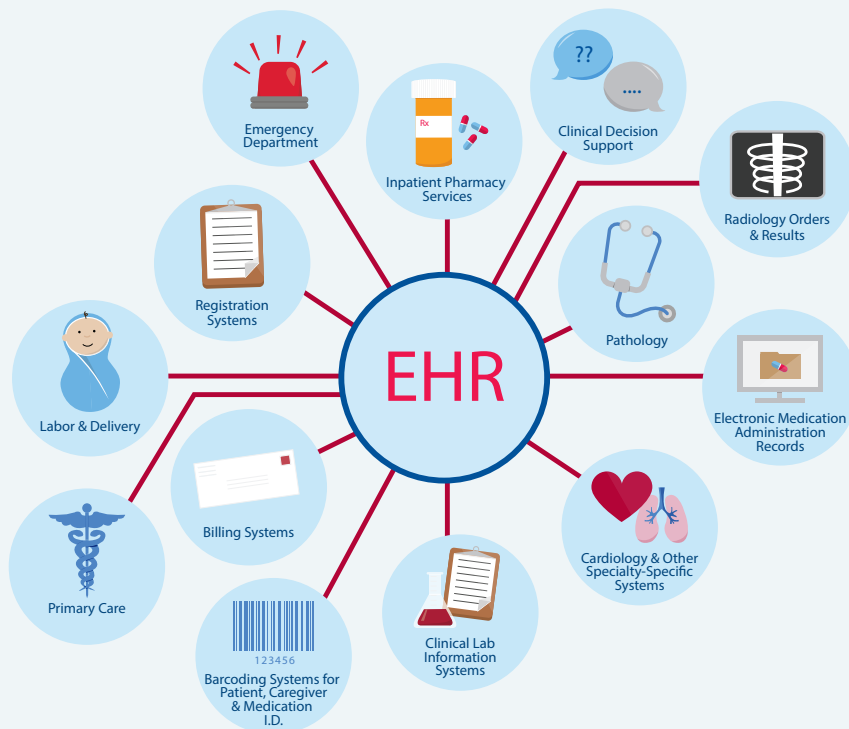


Many hospitals are contracting with vendors for EHRs, but these vendors are not ready for timely implementation.

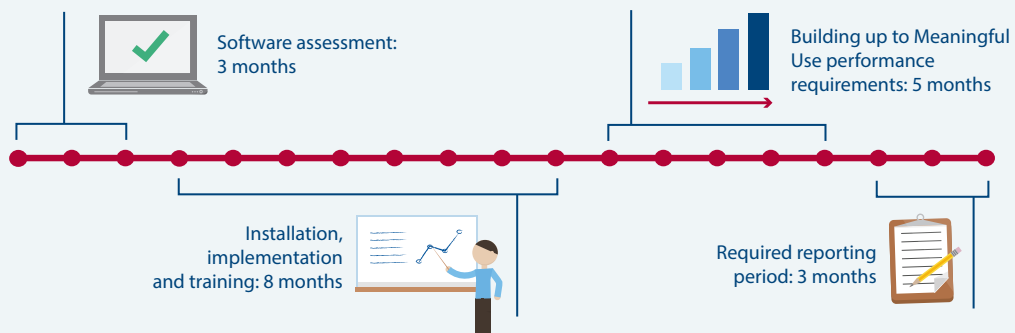


Small and rural hospitals are lagging in implementing EHR systems.

EHRs must integrate information from many diverse sources.



Timely implementation is complicated and can take as long as 19 months to do safely and well. Typical implementation includes:



These steps are sequential with software assessment first, so a hospital cannot start the next step until it completes the previous one.

September 2014						
SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

While many hospitals are at different stages in the process and vendors are still working on delivering products, the deadline of September 30, 2014 to upgrade EHRs is too much, too soon. Patients will benefit from EHR systems that are implemented correctly.
The timeline set by CMS is unrealistic.

