# Table of Contents

**Electronic Health Records**

3

**Summary of Findings**

3

- EHR Status (February Q1) ................................................................. 3
- Practices with No Plans to Implement an EHR ................................ 5
  - Reasons for Not Implementing an EHR (January Q2) ...................... 5
  - Incentives to Implement an EHR (February Q3) .............................. 6
- Practices with Plans to Implement an EHR .................................... 7
  - Time until EHR Implementation (January Q4-5) ............................. 7
  - Helpful Services for Implementation (January Q6) ......................... 8
- Practices That Have Implemented an EHR ...................................... 9
  - Meaningful Use Incentives (January Q7-8) ..................................... 9
  - Physician Involvement in EHR Selection (February Q9-11) .............. 10
  - Type of EHR (February Q12) ....................................................... 12
  - Length of Time EHR Has Been in Use (February Q13) .................... 12
  - Health Information Exchange Participation (February Q14) .............. 13
  - EHR System (February Q15) ....................................................... 14
  - EHR Satisfaction (February Q16) ................................................ 15
  - EHR Recommendation (February Q17) ....................................... 16
  - Scribes (February Q18-19) ....................................................... 17
  - EHR Disruption to Patient Care (February Q20) ............................ 18
  - EHR Cost and Care (February Q21-24) ....................................... 19
  - Use of More Than One EHR (February Q25-26) ............................. 20
  - Physician Quality Reporting System Participation (February Q27) .... 21
  - Sources of Practice Revenues (March Q15) .................................. 22
  - Sources of Medicaid Patients (September Q3) .............................. 22

**Physician Demographics** ............................................................... 23

- Gender ......................................................................................... 23
- Age ......................................................................................... 23
- Specialty .................................................................................... 23
- County ...................................................................................... 23
- TMA Membership Status .......................................................... 23

**Survey Methodology** ..................................................................... 24

**APPENDIX — Survey Instrument** ................................................... 25
**TMA 2014 Physician Survey**

**Electronic Health Records**

Every two years, the Texas Medical Association conducts a survey of Texas physicians to identify emerging issues, track the impact of practice and economic changes, assess physician priorities, and develop data to support TMA advocacy efforts. In February of 2014, physicians were surveyed regarding their opinion and experiences with EHRs. Approximately 30,250 Texas physician and residents with email addresses in the TMA database were emailed a personalized link to the survey in February. Responses were received 1,552 members and nonmembers.

**Summary of Findings**

**EHR Status (February Q1)**

The majority of respondents currently use or plan to implement an EHR (81 percent).

![EHR Status Chart]

- **2014**
  - We do not plan to implement an EHR: 19%
  - We want or plan to implement an EHR: 12%
  - We currently use an EHR: 69%

- **2012**
  - We do not plan to implement an EHR: 18%
  - We want or plan to implement an EHR: 22%
  - We currently use an EHR: 60%

- **2009**
  - We do not plan to implement an EHR: 19%
  - We want or plan to implement an EHR: 30%
  - We currently use an EHR: 51%
Younger physicians are most likely to use an EHR.
Practices with No Plans to Implement an EHR

*Reasons for Not Implementing an EHR (January Q2)*

Physicians who do not plan to implement an EHR report it is cost-prohibitive (64 percent) and/or they are near retirement (55 percent).

![Chart showing reasons for not implementing EHR](chart.png)
Incentives to Implement an EHR (February Q3)

A large minority of physicians report evidence it would improve practice operations or the quality of patient care (46 percent) would convince them to implement an EHR.
Practices with Plans to Implement an EHR

*Time until EHR Implementation (January Q4-5)*

Practices that want to or plan to implement an EHR anticipate doing so within one year (68 percent).

![Pie chart showing time until EHR implementation]

Physicians who report it will take their practice more than two years to implement an EHR specify the cost as prohibitive (55 percent).

![Bar chart showing reasons for delayed EHR implementation]

- Cost-prohibitive: 55%
- Uncertainty regarding the impact of health care reform: 9%
- No time: 9%
Helpful Services for Implementation (January Q6)

Physicians with plans to implement an EHR report suggestions of appropriate and effective EHR products (61 percent) and assistance optimizing new system efficiency and effectiveness (52 percent) would be the most helpful.
Practices That Have Implemented an EHR

*Meaningful Use Incentives (January Q7-8)*

A little more than half of physicians applied for Stage 1 Meaningful Use incentives (59 percent).

Among physicians who applied or plan to apply for Stage 1 Meaningful Use incentives, 80 percent plan to advance to Stage 2 Meaningful Use.
Physician Involvement in EHR Selection (February Q9-11)

Forty-six percent of physicians were involved in the initial selection of their EHR. These physicians used other physicians and colleagues (56 percent) and EHR vendors to make their purchase decision (53 percent). Twenty-four percent used TMA resources.

### Resources for EHR Decision

- **EHR vendors**: 56%
- **Physicians and colleagues**: 53%
- **Certified product list**: 22%
- **National specialty societies**: 16%
- **TMA’s EHR adoption tools**: 7%
- **TMA’s seminars**: 6%
- **Regional extension centers**: 3%
- **American Medical Association**: 2%
- **TMA’s Practice Consulting**: 2%
- **Other**: 17%
- **Don’t know**: 4%
When implementing their EHR, physicians would have benefited from suggestions of appropriate and effective products (48 percent) and assistance with optimizing new system efficiency and effectiveness (47 percent).

### Beneficial Assistance When Implementing an EHR

- **Suggestions of appropriate and effective EHR products**: 48%
- **Assistance to optimize new system efficiency and effectiveness**: 47%
- **Analysis of purchase and implementation costs**: 41%
- **A process to screen vendors**: 35%
- **Financial assistance**: 33%
- **A tech readiness assmt of prac**: 30%
- **Don’t know**: 9%
Type of EHR (February Q12)
The majority of physicians use an office-based only EHR (62 percent).

Length of Time EHR Has Been in Use (February Q13)
Physicians who currently use an EHR report it has been implemented more than two years (67 percent).
Health Information Exchange Participation (February Q14)

Thirty-seven percent of physicians are participating in or plan to participate in a local HIE to share EHR data among health care providers.

Yes, we are participating now, 15%
Yes, we plan to participate, 22%
No, 22%
I don't know, 42%
**EHR System (February Q15)**

The EHR system with the largest percentage of users is EPIC (17 percent). A quarter of physicians use “other” EHR systems, too numerous to mention.
**EHR Satisfaction (February Q16)**

Users were asked to rate their satisfaction with their system on various dimensions. Overall, physicians are most satisfied with their EHR’s reports and reporting ability (66 percent).

![Physician Satisfaction with EHR](chart)

- Date entry and retrieval: 23% Very satisfied, 41% Somewhat satisfied, 21% Somewhat dissatisfied, 14% Very dissatisfied
- Reports and reporting ability: 23% Very satisfied, 43% Somewhat satisfied, 22% Somewhat dissatisfied, 12% Very dissatisfied
- Effect on patient care: 22% Very satisfied, 43% Somewhat satisfied, 21% Somewhat dissatisfied, 15% Very dissatisfied
- EHR vendor support: 21% Very satisfied, 42% Somewhat satisfied, 21% Somewhat dissatisfied, 16% Very dissatisfied
- Effect on productivity: 17% Very satisfied, 30% Somewhat satisfied, 24% Somewhat dissatisfied, 29% Very dissatisfied
Physicians who were involved in the initial selection of their EHR are more likely to be satisfied with their EHR.

EHR Recommendation (February Q17)
Fifty-seven percent of physicians would recommend their system to another practice. Physicians using Amazing Charts are most likely to recommend their system (91 percent).
**Scribes (February Q18-19)**

Twenty-one percent of physicians report their practice uses scribes for EHR data entry. Among them, 47 percent retrained existing staff and 34 percent retrained existing and hired new staff.
EHR Disruption to Patient Care (February Q20)

Physicians agree use of the EHR decreases attentiveness to the patient’s presentation of signs and symptoms (72 percent) and data entry at the point of care disrupts a physician’s diagnostic thought process (70 percent).

![EHR and Disruption to Patient Care](chart)

- Use of EHR decreases attentiveness to patient’s presentation of signs and symptoms.
  - Strongly agree: 34%
  - Somewhat agree: 38%
  - Somewhat disagree: 19%
  - Strongly disagree: 9%

- Data entry at point of care disrupts physician’s diagnostic thought process.
  - Strongly agree: 33%
  - Somewhat agree: 37%
  - Somewhat disagree: 20%
  - Strongly disagree: 10%

- Using an EHR creates data retrieval problems in reviewing patient’s history.
  - Strongly agree: 21%
  - Somewhat agree: 29%
  - Somewhat disagree: 31%
  - Strongly disagree: 19%

- Data entry process disrupts formation of differential diagnosis.
  - Strongly agree: 21%
  - Somewhat agree: 36%
  - Somewhat disagree: 30%
  - Strongly disagree: 13%
**EHR Cost and Care (February Q21-24)**

Few physicians report their EHR has saved them money (18 percent).

![Extent to Which EHR Has Saved Physician Money](image1)

A large minority of physicians report their EHR has been worth the effort, resources, and cost (47 percent).

![Extent to Which EHR Has Improved the Quality of Patient Care](image2)

Few physicians report their EHR has improved the quality of patient care (36 percent).
Sixty percent report there were unanticipated costs related to EHR implementation and use.

**Use of More Than One EHR (February Q25-26)**
Sixty-eight percent of physicians have used more than one EHR in their entire medical career.
Physician Quality Reporting System Participation (February Q27)
Forty-six percent of physicians are currently reporting quality data for Medicare’s PQRS program from their EHR.

[Pie chart showing physician participation in Medicare’s PQRS Program:]
- Yes, 46%
- No, 23%
- Don’t know, 31%
Sources of Practice Revenues (March Q15)

Physicians were asked to estimate their revenue percentages by payer type. Twenty-one percent of average practice revenues are derived from Medicare, including HMO or Advantage plans and capitated programs. Two percent from payments for dual-eligible patients, seven percent from Medicaid, and one percent from the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Sources of Medicaid Patients (September Q3)

Physicians were asked to estimate their percentage of Medicaid patients. Physicians report their practice has a mean percentage of 14 Medicaid HMO patients and 13 Medicaid FFS patients.
## Physician Demographics

### Gender

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### Age

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### Specialty

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### County

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### TMA Membership Status

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Survey Methodology
Since 1990, TMA has conducted a biennial survey of Texas physicians focusing primarily on health care practice, economic, and legislative issues. The survey findings provide a cross-sectional snapshot and a longitudinal tracking of physician opinions on key health care issues and their experiences to support the association’s policy development, political focus, and strategic planning process.

The 2014 Survey of Texas Physicians was conducted by TMA as a monthly email survey. The survey contained a total of 208 questions, many with multiple response items. Not all questions were answered by all respondents due to skip patterns and the monthly design. The survey included a mix of closed-ended response items, Likert Scale, and open-ended response items. Many of the questions were structured for multiple choice or nominal scale responses.

Approximately 30,250 Texas physician and residents with email addresses in the TMA database were emailed a personalized link to the survey in February along with an announcement inviting them to participate and an incentive to answer the survey. Respondents were not apprised of the topic of the survey and it was a part of a larger survey which is comprehensive, covering a broad range of physician opinion and experience and not limited to specific issues or grievances. There was no published links that allowed uninvited responses. Each link was unique and carried with it respondent demographic information. Each respondent was allowed to respond once to the survey. Reminders requesting participation from physicians who did not answer the survey were emailed one week later. Responses were received 1,552 members and nonmembers.

Data was analyzed using SPSS statistical software. Open-ended responses were assigned to categories for analysis. In analysis, respondents are segregated by demographic variables and compared with the whole population. Only results at the 95% confidence lever are reported.
APPENDIX — Survey Instrument

1. Which statement best describes the current status of your practice?
   ○ We do not plan to implement an EHR.
   ○ We want to implement or plan to implement an EHR.
   ○ We currently use an EHR.

2. Why are you not planning to implement an EHR? (Check all that apply).
   □ Near retirement
   □ Cost-prohibitive
   □ No time for implementation and training
   □ Concerns about electronic system reliability
   □ Difficulty entering data
   □ No national standards
   □ Security, privacy, and liability concerns for myself or my patients
   □ Uncertainty regarding Medicare and/or Medicaid fees
   □ Uncertainty regarding the economy
   □ Uncertainty regarding the impact of health care reform
   □ Other (please specify): ____________________

3. Would any of the following convince you to implement an EHR? (Check all that apply).
   □ Less direct data entry or more versatile user interface (i.e., voice recognition or PDA entry)
   □ Greater flexibility in where and how I document
   □ Better/more efficient retrieval of needed information
   □ Grants or loans to help with implementation cost
   □ Health care payment plan reimbursement incentives (i.e., stimulus package, pay-for-performance)
   □ Help in selecting the appropriate system for my office
   □ Assistance in implementation and training
   □ Evidence that it would help improve the quality of patient care
   □ Evidence that it would reduce my liability risk
   □ Evidence that it would improve my practice operations
   □ A better EHR product than the ones I’ve seen so far
   □ Formal or informal standards that ensure that all systems can share information
   □ Help from the local hospital to implement a system that will interface with theirs
   □ Certainty regarding Medicare and/or Medicaid fees
   □ Other (please specify): ____________________
4. If you want to implement an EHR, how soon do you anticipate doing so?
  ○ Between zero and six months
  ○ Between six months and one year
  ○ Between one and two years
  ○ More than two years

Answer If you want to implement an EHR, how soon do you anticipate... More than two years is selected

5. Why will it take you more than two years to implement an EHR?
  ○ Cost-prohibitive
  ○ No time
  ○ Uncertainty regarding Medicare and/or Medicaid fees
  ○ Uncertainty regarding the economy
  ○ Uncertainty regarding the impact of health care reform
  ○ Other (please specify): ____________________

6. Which of the following services would you find helpful? (Check all that apply).
  ○ A technology readiness assessment of my practice
  ○ Suggestions of appropriate and effective EHR products
  ○ Analysis of purchase and implementation costs
  ○ A process to screen vendors
  ○ Assistance to optimize new system efficiency and effectiveness
  ○ Financial assistance
  ○ Other (please specify): ____________________

7. Did your practice apply for Stage 1 Meaningful Use incentives?
  ○ Yes, and we received them.
  ○ Yes, and we expect to receive them.
  ○ No, but we plan to apply.
  ○ No, and we don't plan to apply.
  ○ I don't know.

Answer If Did your practice apply for Stage 1 Meaningful Use incentives? Yes, and we received them. Is Selected or Did your practice apply for Stage 1 Meaningful Use incentives? Yes, and we expect to receive them. Is Selected or Did your practice apply for Stage 1 Meaningful Use incentives? No, but we plan to apply. Is Selected

8. Is your practice planning to advance to Stage 2 Meaningful Use?
  ○ Yes
  ○ No
  ○ Don't know
9. Were you involved in the initial EHR selection for your practice?
   ☐ Yes
   ☐ No
   If No is selected, then skip to Which type of EHR does your practice...

10. What resources did your practice use to make your EHR decision? (Check all that apply).
   - National specialty societies
   - Regional Extension Centers (RECs)
   - American Medical Association (AMA)
   - Certified product list
   - TMA's EHR adoption tools
   - TMA's Practice Consulting
   - TMA's seminars
   - EHR vendors
   - Other physicians and colleagues
   - Other (please specify): ____________________
   - Don't know

11. When you implemented your EHR, from which of the following types of assistance would you have benefited? (Check all that apply).
   - A technology readiness assessment of my practice
   - Suggestions of appropriate and effective EHR products
   - Analysis of purchase and implementation costs
   - A process to screen vendors
   - Assistance to optimize new system efficiency and effectiveness
   - Financial assistance
   - Other (please specify): ____________________
   - Don't know

12. Which type of EHR does your practice use?
   - Office-based only
   - Office and hospital system
   - Hospital system only
13. How long has your EHR been implemented?
- Between zero and six months
- Between six months and one year
- Between one and two years
- More than two years

14. Are you currently or do you plan to participate in a local health information exchange (HIE) in order to share EHR data among health care providers?
- Yes, we are participating now.
- Yes, we plan to participate.
- No.
- I don't know.

15. Which EHR system are you using?
- Allscripts
- Amazing Charts
- Athenahealth
- Centricity (GE)
- Cerner
- e-MDs
- eClinicalWorks
- EPIC
- Greenway/Vitera
- NextGen
- Practice Fusion
- Practice Partner (McKesson)
- Sevocity (Conceptual Mindworks)
- SpringCharts
- I only use a practice management system, e-prescribing system, hospital system, or home-grown system.
- Other (please specify vendor below): ____________________
16. How satisfied are you with your EHR system on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Reports and reporting ability</td>
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<td>Effect on productivity</td>
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<td>Effect on patient care</td>
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<td>Data entry and retrieval</td>
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<td>EHR vendor support</td>
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17. Would you recommend this system to another practice?
- Yes
- No

18. Does your practice use scribes for EHR data entry?
- Yes
- No

Answer If Does your practice use scribes for EHR data entry? Yes Is Selected

19. Did your practice hire new staff as scribes, retrain existing staff, or do both?
- Hired new staff
- Retrained existing staff
- Both

20. Indicate your agreement with each of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Somewhat agree</th>
<th>Somewhat disagree</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Data entry at the point of care disrupts a physician’s diagnostic thought process</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Use of the EHR decreases attentiveness to the patient’s presentation of signs and symptoms.</td>
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<td>Using an EHR creates data retrieval problems in reviewing patient’s history</td>
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</table>
21. To what extent has your EHR saved you money?
- Significant losses
- Some losses
- Neither losses nor savings
- Some savings
- Significant savings

22. To what extent has your EHR improved the quality of patient care?
- Significantly worse
- Somewhat worse
- Neither worse nor improved
- Somewhat improved
- Significantly improved

23. Has your EHR been worth the effort, resources, and cost?
- Yes
- No

24. Were there unanticipated costs related to EHR implementation and use?
- Yes
- No
- Don’t know

25. Have you used more than one EHR in your entire medical career?
- Yes
- No

Answer If Have you used more than one EHR in your entire medical career? Yes Is Selected

26. If so, please specify the make and/or the model of the best EHR you have used?

27. Are you currently reporting quality data for Medicare’s Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) program from your EHR?
- Yes
- No
- Don’t know