



Focus Group: Health IT Implementation

Topic: Cohort Readiness

Health IT Modernization Program

January 15, 2026



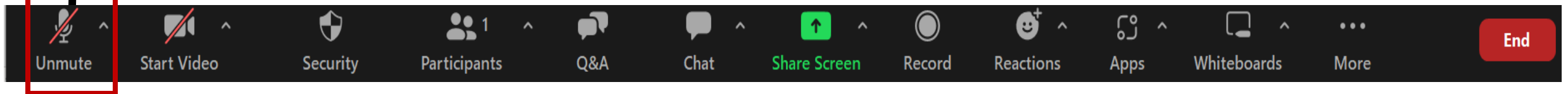
Zoom Meeting Guide

Please
MUTE



Microphone

- Click to mute or unmute yourself
- Red slash indicates you are on mute.
- Unmute to participate in the discussion.



Technical Notes and Support

Meeting Guide



- If you lose connectivity during the session, **simply re-click your access link** to re-access the meeting
- If you experience technical difficulties, **send a note using the chat box OR email Modernization@ihs.gov** to connect with a Coordinator for assistance
- If you are dialing-in via Phone – Use *6 to mute and unmute and *9 to raise your hand

Enjoy the session!

Disclaimer



Focus Groups (FGs) inform and support decisions and governance of the Health Information Technology (IT) Modernization Program. FGs are NOT decision-making bodies and at NO time will focus groups provide consensus, recommendations or advice to the Agency that would trigger Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App. § 1-16 additional legal requirements.

Meeting Courtesies

- Participation in the focus group is voluntary and has no term limits
- Be prompt, be prepared, and be ready with constructive feedback
- Share constructive individual feedback via engagement during the meeting
- Communicate with grace and respect for all participants
- Be engaged, listen attentively and actively, share ideas, ask questions, contribute
- It's all right to refrain from discussing specific topics if you are uncomfortable
- All responses are valid—there are no right or wrong answers
- Maintain others' privacy by not discussing details outside the group
- Any topics or ideas not directly related to the current agenda will be 'promptly parked' and revisited at an appropriate time



Welcome & Introductions

Sarah Oakes – Communications Specialist

Adrian Haven – HIT Senior Deployment Program Manager

Kimberly Shije – Organizational Change Senior Program Manager



Overview

Purpose

The Focus Group will help the Executive Steering Committee (ESC) to understand the strategies used by other Federal agencies, Tribes, and Urban Indian Organizations to modernize their Health IT capabilities resulting in performance changes in healthcare delivery. The participants from the Focus Groups in the areas of Health IT Implementation, Interoperability, and Data Management and Analytics will inform decisions regarding organizational readiness, planning, and implementation.

Agenda

- Introduction
- Readiness Overview and Discussion
- Closing Remarks

Desired Outcomes

- Improve shared understanding among Focus Group Participants
- Capture issues and lessons learned data
- **Improve the system and tool** to support the patient's and healthcare teams' utilization of a new electronic health record
- Your **input** is important and provides valuable information and understanding the end-user needs necessary to support the modernization efforts

Focus Groups

The purpose of the focus groups is to share information and expertise concerning issues of interest to all I/T/U organizations regardless of their selected EHR solution.

Health IT Implementation

Help understand the lessons learned, challenges, and strategies used by other organizations to modernize their health IT capabilities.



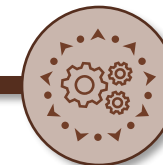
Interoperability

Review and suggest strategies, operational requirements, clinical practice standards, and performance measures that inform the interoperability solution design and project planning.



Data Management and Analytics

Review and suggest strategies that support effective data use, security and privacy controls, and standards.



Invitation to Participate in Focus Groups

Tribes and UIOs are encouraged to engage in the modernization strategy via focus groups.

Participation will be open to all I/T/U organizations

Eligible individuals include:

- Volunteers in health IT implementation, interoperability, and data management and analytics
- Participants with health IT experience, RPMS, various EHRs, business and clinical workflows, interoperability, informatics, organizational change, facility management, privacy, and other relevant domains

**Note: Participation is not limited to one focus group*

Email Modernization@ihs.gov to volunteer for focus group participation.



**At this time, vendors cannot participate*

Health IT Modernization Guiding Principles



DESIGN

solutions that deliver culturally appropriate care, quality, safety, and improved patient outcomes



EMPHASIZE

usability and human-centered design



ENGAGE

patients in their health journey through improved patient access



ADOPT

enterprise technology solutions that support continuity of care



PARTNER

across I/T/U for collaborative decision-making that is fully informed by clinical and business users in the field



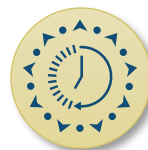
CONFIGURE

solutions to meet organizational requirements with minimal customization



UTILIZE

recognized best practices across clinical and business processes



PROVIDE

timely and complete communication, training, and tools to support a successful deployment

A scenic landscape featuring a calm lake in the middle ground, surrounded by a dense forest. The trees in the background show signs of autumn, with some yellow and orange leaves. In the foreground, there are bare tree branches and some green foliage. The sky is overcast with grey clouds. A large white circle is centered over the image, containing the text.

Topic: Cohort Readiness

Overview and Guide

The Getting Ready to Get Ready Guide



Indian Health Service
Health Information Technology
Modernization Program

Discover essential steps to prepare your site for modernization with the

GETTING READY TO GET READY GUIDE

A guide to assist sites with preparations for implementing the new enterprise EHR solution

Scan the QR code to view



Purpose

To share suggested actions sites can take today to prepare to implement the new enterprise EHR solution, PATH EHR



Importance

To help preemptively identify challenges that could impact a site's implementation of PATH EHR



Benefit

To offer sites a head start to work through any challenges identified prior to implementation

Readiness Guide 2.0

The Readiness Guide is a tool for IHS/tribal/urban (I/T/U) sites to assist with preparations for implementing PATH EHR. The updated Guide will be available later this spring.



Organizational

Organizational readiness includes understanding existing facility, staffing, process, and cultural strengths – as well as areas of needed support – to prioritize preparations for PATH EHR and support overall organizational stability.



Operational

Operational readiness includes understanding and outlining key operational processes and considerations that will be impacted by PATH EHR, such as policies and guidelines, workflows, major facility projects or strategic initiatives, and revenue cycle operations.



Technical

Technical readiness includes assessing and preparing your site for all technology-related changes, such as reviewing current IT contracts and licenses, identifying device ports, protocols, and interfaces, and updating clinical data in the current EHR to prepare for the move to PATH EHR.

Site Implementation Support



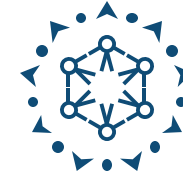
Implementation Site Lead

Serves as the primary project contact and lead for the implementation efforts at the site.



Hardware Lead

Plans and executes the physical deployment of hardware infrastructure required to support.



Subject Matter Experts

Participate in data collection, build, and testing efforts as well as join the solution calls and Site Design Workshops.



Change & Comms Lead

Serves as the primary contact for distribution of communications.



Patient Care Location Lead

Owns the patient care location (PCL) structure of the facility.



Site Training Coordinator

Facilitates several key activities before and during training rollout, including site logistics, resources, and materials.



IT Lead

Serves as the primary point of contact for all technical aspects of initiatives, including events and user-reported issues related to assigned applications, networks, or systems.



User Role Assignment Coordinator

Gathers and updates end user information and supports the user role assignment process.



Bio-Med Device Lead

Oversees the integration, readiness, and deployment of biomedical equipment within the defined scope.



Cutover Lead

Ensures the cutover (clinical, RevCycle, and technical) efforts in the months leading up to go-live are complete.

Note: Other staff-level support resources will be needed to support activities throughout implementation, such as communications and training.

Discussion & Questions

Readiness Questions

- What questions or concerns do you have about the type of activities in the Readiness Guide?
- What roles do you think would be beneficial to make your implementation go smoothly?
- What kind of support do you think your site need for getting ready for implementation?
- What information would be valuable for your site to know to prepare for EHR?
- Based on the site implementation support slide, how would you adjust your staffing needs?



Upcoming Engagements

Engage with the Modernization Program

MODERNIZATION LISTSERV

Email Updates

We invite you to sign up for the Modernization Listserv to receive email updates, including upcoming engagement opportunities



Sign up for email updates to stay connected to the Modernization Program at [IHS.gov/HIT](https://www.ihs.gov/HIT)

IHS MODERNIZATION WEBSITE

Resource Hub

Documents, Presentations, Modernization Blog Posts, Modernization Tribal/Urban Leader Letters, Modernization Video Series, and Social Media



Visit [IHS.gov/HIT/Resource-Hub](https://www.ihs.gov/HIT/Resource-Hub) to find all resources related to the Modernization Program

Participate in

THE HEALTH IT MODERNIZATION PROGRAM AWARENESS SURVEY

SCAN ME



**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM OUR
TRIBAL AND URBAN
PARTNERS!**

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or by following us on social media



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