



# Electronic Health Records

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House Health Care & Wellness  
Committee

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# What is an Electronic Health Record (EHR)?

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- ▶ An electronic version of a patient's medical history
- ▶ Helps to ensure:
  - ▶ medical history and current medications are **easily accessible** to **authorized** providers;
  - ▶ supports **coordination and continuation of care** across environments.

# Why invest in EHR?

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## Equitable, person-focused care

- ▶ **Faster access** to care and resources in times of crisis.
- ▶ **Better service** in communities with historic barriers to care.
- ▶ **Data to improve health outcomes** and address inequities.

## A seamless experience

- ▶ **Coordinate care** across providers, programs, services, and communities.
- ▶ **Increase efficiency** and fewer redundancies.
- ▶ **Help people connect and keep services** with easy-to-use systems.

# Why invest in EHR? (cont.)

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Challenges to receiving needed healthcare:

- ▶ **Finding** primary care and behavioral health providers.
- ▶ If found, providers often **cannot readily access previous healthcare records.**
- ▶ These providers often **do not have adequate tools to make in-the-moment referrals** and depend on phone and fax.
- ▶ **In a crisis, these limitations only make things worse.**

# Optimizing outcomes

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- ▶ Focusing on underserved, vulnerable populations
  - ▶ Behavioral Health, Tribal, Long-Term Care, and Rural
- ▶ Supporting standard infrastructure
  - ▶ Of the 7.7 million Washington residents, 5.5 million resident records exist within a common EHR product
- ▶ Facilitating care coordination through authorized sharing
- ▶ Enabling client access to mobile tools to manage care

# Benefits of a statewide EHR

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- ▶ Shared clients – Shared system
  - ▶ Enhanced care coordination
  - ▶ Fewer duplicate orders for diagnostic tests
- ▶ Leverage enterprise purchasing power
  - ▶ Maximizing federal match
  - ▶ Economies of scale
- ▶ Analytics
  - ▶ Where to focus limited resources
  - ▶ Population health interventions
  - ▶ Disease investigations



# Contact

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