

EMR Decision Tool

Clinical and functional elements
for EMR software



AGAINSTITUTE

AGA Institute EMR Clinical and Functional Elements

EMR Decision Tool

To assist gastroenterologists in the decision process needed to identify and choose an appropriate electronic medical records system (EMR), the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) Institute developed the following list of clinical and functional elements to be included in an EMR for gastroenterology and endoscopy practices.

Use the rating scale below to determine what is important to you and your practice. Columns already marked indicate clinical and functional elements AGA Institute has determined to be “must haves” for all GI practices. Share your ratings with the EMR vendors on your short list to determine whether their systems meet your needs.

1 = must have 2 = nice to have 3 = not at this time

<i>Category</i>		<i>AGA</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
Description of Functional Elements					
Existing Certification Criteria	Achieved 2007 or 2008 Certification Commission for Health Information Technology (CCHIT) certification	x			
	Built using Health Level 7 standards v.2.xx or higher for electronic interchange of clinical, financial, and administrative information	x			
	Certified to support Medicare’s e-prescribing incentive program or verifiable interface with a certified e-prescribing partner (Until CCHIT certification of e-prescribing system is available, MIPPA e-prescribing system requirements must be met.)	x			
	Facilitates clinical quality reporting and outcomes measurement, such as for the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI)	x			
Interfaces, Integration	Bidirectional interfaces between practice management and EMR systems or fully integrated system on one database	x			
	Bidirectional interfaces with major laboratories (orders, results posted as discrete data, order reminders, and codifying)	x			
	Interfaces with electronic pathology results systems or capacity to receive results via scan or fax into patient record	x			
	Interfaces with electronic radiology reporting systems or capacity to receive results via scan or fax into patient record	x			
	Interfaces with electronic endoscopy reporting systems or capacity to receive results via scan or fax into patient record	x			
	Indexes and facilitates annotation of other external documents received via fax or scanner into the patient record	x			
	Accesses clinical images and makes them accessible through patient chart	x			

EMR Decision Tool (continued)

<i>Category</i>		<i>AGA</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
Mobility	Accommodates capture of data onto handhelds or portable tablets with syncing capability				
	Multisite and multiprovider scheduling and schedule viewing	x			
Description of Clinical Elements					
Clinical and Quality Management	Displays all current problems; separates current from inactive problems; displays current problems as well as a list of procedures and other diagnostic studies on patient summary page (or face sheet) upon signing onto EMR	x			
	Incorporates clinical practice guidelines, including those from AGA Institute, into disease-specific templates, including templates for colonoscopy screening and endoscopic procedures; templates include data captured prior to procedure and procedure results				
	Provides GI-specific alerts and clinical decision support				
Template Management	Reflects gastroenterological and/or endoscopic clinical workflows, assessments, treatment plans, orders, reporting, and related clinical decisions	x			
	Allows practice to develop and customize templates for gastroenterology or endoscopy	x			
	Templates customized by clinicians are not lost during upgrades, or vendor provides process for transferring customized templates into new version	x			
	GI-specific patient encounter documentation templates prebuilt into the system, including the major GI conditions or symptoms that the practice manages/cares for (see Exhibits A and B)	x			
Order Entry	Allows physician to intuitively route, manage, and present current orders to laboratories, pharmacies, outpatient treatment centers, radiology, and pathology	x			
	Manages outpatient consultations for patients with common GI disorders or complaints; includes customizable order sets with secure tracking mechanism, results tracking, and electronic communication with providers for results signoff	x			
	Allows for comparison between past and present results	x			
	Reminder prompts for outstanding orders	x			
	Facilitates charge capture of codes and charge data on orders	x			

EMR Decision Tool (continued)

<i>Category</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>AGA</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
Medication Management	Generates and maintains an active medication list and a list of inactive medications	x			
Disease and Wellness Management	Built-in, evidence-based clinical practice guidelines and disease management content pertaining to digestive diseases and conditions				
	Prints or downloads educational materials to patient device and verifies material provided to patient	x			
Patient Recall and Tracking	Supports patient registries and recall systems for future and pending appointments, procedures and lab/radiology	x			
Documentation Management	Facilitates multiple methods of data input, such as keyboard, voice recognition, dictation, and handwriting recognition	x			
	Facilitates secure internal messaging for clinical task assignments and routing	x			
	Generates consultation letter to referring physician	x			
Financial and Administrative	Provides rules-driven coding assistance	x			
	Provides a minimum of 15 reports, such as productivity, prescription recalls, patient recalls, coding and reimbursement reports, unsigned documents, and encounter tracking				
	Provides evaluation and management coding support	x			
Patient Communication	Facilitates patient communication through a secure portal				
	Provides a Web-based personal health record (PHR) for patients (may be a portal or interface)				
Clinical Trials	Alerts physician if clinical trial is available				
	Prompts physician when patient is eligible and accepted into clinical trials				

Exhibit A: GI-Specific Patient Encounter Template Functions

Gastroenterology-specific templates must include at least these functional elements:

- ▶ Identify/select by both symptoms and diseases
- ▶ Practice guidelines and best practice alerts with source/evidence for templates
- ▶ Order sets (ambulatory/home care and hospital care)
- ▶ Recalls
- ▶ GI medication with dynamic alerts
- ▶ Medication reconciliation
- ▶ Feed registries as developed (IBD, hepatitis, GIH cancers)
- ▶ Nursing documentation
- ▶ Patient education

Exhibit B: GI Disease/Condition–Specific Templates

Use the scale below to indicate which disease/condition templates are important to your practice. Provide these template recommendations to your vendor to ensure that they are either prebuilt or can be built/customized during implementation.

- 1 = High-volume, high-risk condition
- 2 = Neutral; helpful, but not high-risk, high-volume condition
- 3 = Low-volume, low-risk condition

<i>Condition</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
GI tract			
GI bleeding			
Crohn’s disease			
Abdominal pain			
Acute diarrhea			
Chronic diarrhea			
Endoscopy (including complex/procedures)			
Endoscopy risk assessment			
EGD or extended EGD			
EUS			
Upper			
Lower			
Biliary tract			
ERCP			
Small bowel (single/double balloon)			
Colonoscopy			
Esophagus			
Dysphagia			
GERD			
Barrett’s esophagus/high-grade dysplasia			
Cancer			
Stomach			
Gastroparesis			
Ulcer disease			
Cancer			
Small Bowel			
Ulcer disease			
Celiac disease			
Malabsorption			
Malnutrition			
Cancer			

Exhibit B: Gastroenterology-Specific Templates

<i>Condition</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
Colorectal			
Functional bowel disorder/irritable bowel syndrome (IBS)			
Ulcerative colitis			
Neoplasia			
Colon cancer genetic and other risk evaluation			
Colon polyp/cancer surveillance			
Cancer			
Chronic constipation			
Diverticular disease			
Liver			
Abnormal liver tests			
Genetic liver diseases			
Hemochromatosis			
Alpha-1-antitrypsin deficiency			
Wilson's disease			
Autoimmune liver diseases			
Autoimmune hepatitis			
PBC			
PSC			
Hepatitis, viral			
HBV			
HCV			
Hepatitis, alcoholic			
Hepatitis, NAFLD, NASH			
Cirrhosis, decompensation and HCC screening			
Cancer			
HCC			
Cholangiocarcinoma			
Gallbladder			
Stones			
Cancer			
Pancreas			
Pancreatitis			
Acute			
Chronic			
Pancreas insufficiency			
Cancer			

Exhibit B: Gastroenterology-Specific Templates

<i>Condition</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
Metabolic diseases			
Morbid obesity			
Miscellaneous			
Pediatric gastrointestinal conditions			
GI conditions commonly experienced by women			
Infusion templates			
Quality of life assessment			

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