



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor

Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

nyc.gov/health

Dear Health Care Professional:

Access to accurate, up-to-date information is critical for medical care, but the collection and exchange of information is often slow, fragmented and error-prone. Clinicians report that in 14% of office visits, key information is lacking in patient files. Research has shown that when electronic health records (EHRs) are appropriately designed and implemented, they can help capture important patient information and improve the quality of care. The benefits include better coordination of services, fewer medical errors and a greater focus on prevention.

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) recommends the following:

- Adopt electronic health records to improve the quality, safety and efficiency of your primary care practice.
- Take all steps necessary to protect and secure electronic patient information.

To assist health care providers who care for the city's underserved and vulnerable populations in meeting these objectives, the DOHMH has established the Primary Care Information Project (PCIP), part of a \$30 million Mayoral initiative to support the adoption and use of state-of-the-art EHRs. For more information and to find out if you are eligible, visit www.nyc.gov/pcip.

This Electronic Health Records Action Kit provides information on PCIP, as well as provider resources and patient education materials to help your practice provide the highest quality of care to your patients.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to the health of New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene