

# Children's EHR Format Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

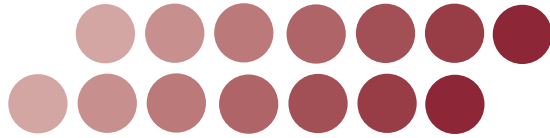
- 1. What is the children's electronic health record (EHR) Format?** The Format is a set of requirements that contains child-specific items (or items of special importance for children) that identify the incremental functionality (beyond what is needed for adults) that an EHR should have to meet the particular needs of children. The Format expands upon the hierarchy created by HL7® for the EHR-S Functional Model and incorporates the HL7 Child Health Functional Profile.
- 2. Who would use the Format?** The Format can be valuable to various audiences, including developers of EHR software who want to ensure their systems optimally address the needs of children; purchasers of EHR software to enable them to assess the degree to which EHR systems support the care of children; child health advocates who want to influence the future development of EHR products for children; and standards and certification organizations that could leverage selected requirements to specify best practices or certification criteria.
- 3. What kind of requirements are in the Format?** The Format includes over 700 requirements statements related to the general care of children that directly inform specific functionality. The requirements are organized hierarchically under “headers” and “functions.” The specific requirements are called normative statements and include one of the following normative verbs:
  1. SHALL (denoting required system behavior)
  2. SHOULD (for recommended system behavior)
  3. MAY (for permitted, desirable system behavior).
- 4. What types of system gaps does the Format cover?** The Format covers EHR functionality related to the care of children in the following areas:
  - Activity Clearance
  - Birth Information
  - Child Abuse Reporting
  - Child Welfare
  - Children With Special Health Care Needs
  - Growth Data
  - Immunizations
  - Medication Management



Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Advancing Excellence in Health Care • [www.ahrq.gov](http://www.ahrq.gov)

Health IT



- Newborn Screening
- Parents and Guardians and Family Relationship Data
- Patient Identifiers
- Patient Portals – PHR
- Prenatal Screening
- Primary Care Management – acute and chronic
- Quality Measures
- Registry Linkages
- School-based Linkages
- Security and Confidentiality
- Special Terminology and Information
- Specialized Scales/Scoring
- Well Child/Preventive Care

5. **Who do I contact if I have questions or comments or want to provide feedback regarding the Format?**

You can send comments or questions to: [CEHRFormat@ahrq.hhs.gov](mailto:CEHRFormat@ahrq.hhs.gov).

6. **How can I stay informed about the progress of the Format and when it will be publicly released?** Join

the Children's EHR Format e-mail list. Send an email to [listserv@list.ahrq.gov](mailto:listserv@list.ahrq.gov) and type **SUBSCRIBE ChildEHRformat** in the body of the e-mail message. Leave the subject line of the e-mail message blank. After sending the message, a confirmation message and instructions on how to use the e-mail list will follow.



AHRQ Publication No: 14-M027  
Replaces AHRQ Publication No: 12-M018  
September 2014