

# Patient IT Records Increasing Malpractice Risks?

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A report from the Institute of Medicine recommends tighter control and review of all systems using the electronic medical record (EMR). The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services is expected to release a plan in the next 12 months detailing methods to decrease safety risks. HHS would report the plan's progress each year. The Food and Drug Administration could then also set further regulations to manage patients' IT records.

Although the EMR had been expected to reduce errors in prescriptions and flag drug interactions and pre-existing medical conditions that could impact a planned treatment, the benefits of the EMR have been slow to materialize, if at all.

Clinicians still must enter much of the information. But patient injuries and deaths are still occurring as a result of clinicians being unfamiliar with the computers, entering the wrong info and delaying entry. The Institute cites a lack of set standards and poorly written software as contributing to the results.



About Duran and Pandos, P.C.

Experienced medical malpractice attorney Debbie Pandos understands challenges to your practice and is ready to assist you in protecting your business. Contact her today at [contact@duranandpandos.com](mailto:contact@duranandpandos.com) or 908-344-3446.