

Appendix 1: The anticipated benefits of electronic health record systems {posted as supplied by author]

To improve patient safety

To improve access and responsiveness by:

Supporting clinical assessment of patients with urgent and emergency care needs

Supporting delivery of high quality care where patient communication/language is a barrier

To improve clinical and cost effectiveness through:

Communication of key data that will support integrated planning and delivery of care plans across different providers of care - particularly patients with long-term conditions

Better medicines management

To improve the patient focus by:

Providing safer care through the reduction in medication errors and adverse drug reactions

Facilitating patients to become partners in their care

Ensuring more integrated, joined-up care

Ensuring confidentiality is better protected

Source: NHS Connecting for Health. NHS Connecting for Health Website.

<http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/> (last accessed 10/01/08)