Reviewer's report

Title: How to Successfully Select and Implement Electronic Health Records (EHR) in Small Ambulatory Practice Settings

Version: 4 Date: 21 December 2008

Reviewer: William Yasnoff

Reviewer's report:

Summary:

With the many helpful changes made by the authors, this thoughtful and practical overview of the barriers and obstacles related to EHR adoption in small ambulatory practices, combined with a comprehensive set of guidelines for practices that are planning to install an EHR system, is now a very useful and important contribution to the literature on EHR adoption. A few additional minor changes would be helpful.

- Major Compulsory Revisions

None.

- Minor Essential Revisions

1. Page 3, first line after heading "Multiple Visions for the EHR": change "Visionaries predicted ..." to "Visionaries have predicted ..."

2. Page 6, first line after heading "Barriers to EHR Use in Ambulatory Settings": Suggest changing this line to read "Several obstacles have been cited as ..." The reference to "detractors of EHR implementation" is unnecessary and probably inaccurate, as many of those who have cited obstacles (including the authors in this manuscript) are not "detractors" but concerned observers who strongly support EHRs.

3. Page 13, second bullet under heading "Selection Phase": Suggest spelling out and defining the term ASP, which may be unfamiliar to many potential readers. Alternatively, the term "Internet-accessible" could be used.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I am Founder and President of the Health Record Banking Alliance (HRBA), a non-profit organization that promotes patient-controlled repositories of health information (no compensation).