

## ABSTRACT

Contemporary healthcare is riddled with multiple complexities. As leaders seek new tools and innovative strategies to conserve costs while improving quality and efficiency, the utility of the EMR has become more pronounced. The problem is adoption of the EMR is not without significant challenges. It uncovers hidden practices, creates cultural shifts and completely disrupts everyday practices. In 2011 Tampa General Hospital deployed the EMR house-wide. A seven step process was employed within Dietetic Services to ensure successful implementation inclusive of updates through 2014. These steps strategically focused on: Quality and Safety, User Friendly Evidence-Based Practices, Enhancing Patient Experience, Improved Communication, Integration, and Functional Innovations Post Go-Live. Each step elaborated on critical components related to EMR planning, preparation, go-live and influence on practice change.

The intent in presenting this project is to assist others in their journey towards EMR deployment that may benefit from the experiences and processes we addressed. Such discussion is critical to dietetic practitioners given hospital goals of compliance with 2014 National EMR Agenda. We propose a stepwise model of the 'build' process to assist others within Dietetic Services to successfully transition to the EMR.

Results from our implementation efforts demonstrated decreased redundancy, improved efficiency and productivity, compliance with quality/safety goals for interdisciplinary documentation, and innovative additions to existing functionality. Finally, we posit that results should heighten consciousness of the application of technology to dietetic practice and spawn development of related college curricula, scholarship programs, and leadership alliances that promotes the informatics competence of dietetic practitioners.

