

Wisconsin Hospitals Report High Rates of Health IT Adoption

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Nearly 90% of hospitals in Wisconsin have either partially or fully implemented five or more key health IT systems, according to a new report by the Wisconsin Hospital Association, Wisconsin Technology Network News reports.

The Wisconsin Hospital Association surveyed 122 acute care hospitals about their use of 16 health care IT systems, including electronic health record and bedside medication verification systems.

Nearly 40% of hospitals reported a high adoption rate of health IT systems, while a total of 76% of hospitals reported moderate or high use of health IT systems.

According to Wisconsin Technology Network News, cost remains a barrier to health IT adoption for Wisconsin hospitals.

Wisconsin Hospital Association President Steve Brenton said, "All health care system participants who benefit -- patients, employers, government programs and insurers -- have a stake in this investment" (Wisconsin Technology Network News, 8/20).

The Wisconsin Hospital Association report is available online at http://www.wha.org/qualityAndPatientSafety/pdf/HITreport_8-20-08.pdf.