

TRANSFORMING HEALTH CARE THROUGH THE EFFECTIVE USE OF HEALTH INFORMATION

Health IT at RTI



Health information and communications technologies are becoming central to reforming health systems, measuring clinical progress, and improving patient and population health around the world. RTI International uses multidisciplinary teams of clinical and technical experts to provide high-quality and innovative research and development, technical services, and policy analysis in health IT to governments and industry worldwide.

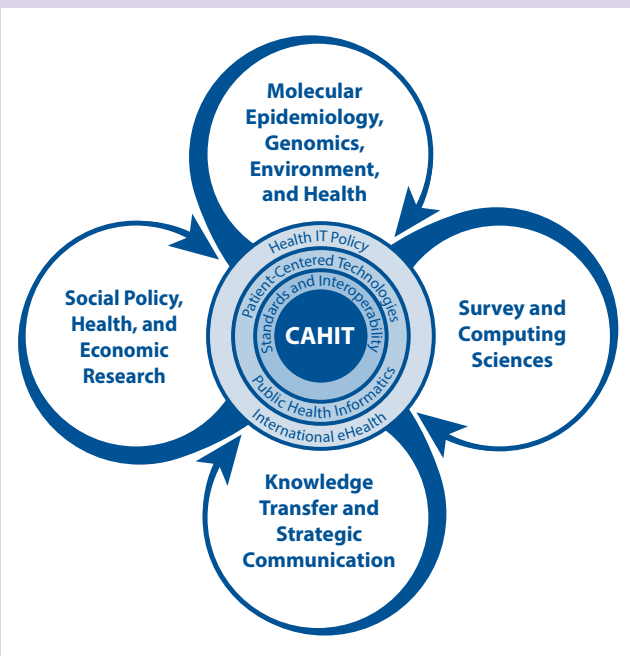
The use of health IT has been expanding rapidly, both in the United States and around the world. Governments and health care organizations are seeking new ways to use health information and communication technologies—and the data generated through these systems—to improve health care safety, effectiveness, and efficiency.

RTI's Center for the Advancement of Health IT (CAHIT) provides applied research and technical services to support the adoption and use of health IT—from applications used by patients, to systems supporting clinicians, to technologies used in managing populations. The Center's mission is to improve the quality of health care in the United States and around the world by advancing the safe, effective, and efficient use of electronic health information to inform

patient and population health decision making, research, and practice. RTI's strength comes from our ability to assemble multidisciplinary teams of experts in health services research, medical informatics, clinical medicine, public policy, health communications, human factors research, information technology, quantitative data analysis, and multiple health communication methodologies. With these diverse capabilities, we meet a wide range of client needs.

RTI's research focuses on all aspects of the health care and population health spectrum, from patient-centered care to health system redesign and national health policy development and evaluation. By understanding the many facets of health care delivery and population health, we can provide solutions that are appropriate to local environments and relevant to regional and national priorities.

Multidisciplinary Collaboration at RTI



RTI's Center for the Advancement of Health IT partners with our RTI colleagues across a range of programs, including molecular epidemiology, genomics, environment, and health; social policy, health, and economics research; survey and computing sciences; and knowledge transfer and strategic communication. Cross-institute collaborations include those aimed at personalized medicine, data analytics, health care quality measurement, public health systems and services research, and global information and communication technology.

Engaging Patients and Families

Patients and their families want a better health care experience. RTI designs, develops, and disseminates technologies that promote patient and family participation in managing their health care. We have created personal health record portals for preventive care and applications patients can easily use to help manage chronic conditions—including decision support tools for gene-based testing and, in international settings, for counseling related to sexually transmitted diseases.

Communicating Health Messages Effectively

We offer expertise helping clients take advantage of social media and other outreach strategies, from message development and testing through dissemination. RTI brings unique and valuable experience for evaluating social media engagement using both platform-specific tools, such as Facebook Insights and Twitter Analytics, and third-party tools. In addition, RTI brings the experience of experts in the development of social media and mobile data capture methods and tools that provide an understanding of social media strategies beyond conventional engagement metrics.

Transforming Care Delivery

Health IT is central to new models of care delivery, where care is designed around patients, delivered in a range of settings, and managed across populations. RTI has led national efforts to identify and disseminate best practices for implementing electronic health records (EHRs), and we've developed educational resources for providers using EHRs to communicate with patients and report quality measures.

RTI—Working to Connect the Nation



Since 2005, RTI has supported projects in nearly every U.S. state, territory, and jurisdiction to advance the use of EHRs and the exchange of health information, both within and between states.

We have researched barriers to the meaningful use of these systems, as well as how health IT affects clinical workflow and coordination of care.

Monitoring and Improving Population Health

As health IT proliferates, data from health information and communication technologies will be used to measure progress in preventing and treating chronic illnesses and to characterize and respond to emerging disease threats. In the United States, RTI is leading the redesign and rollout of a nationwide syndromic surveillance platform that securely shares electronic health data to help assess threats from “all hazards.” In communities more advanced in health IT, RTI is studying how health information exchange improves population health. We also developed a Web-based exchange for quality improvement that is a national hub for sharing public health best practices.

Advancing Research

New models of care and health information technologies require rigorous, objective evaluation to inform development, assess impact, and guide adoption to support implementation. RTI has developed new methods and services for evaluating the effectiveness of mobile health interventions and has created frameworks for understanding trends in health data that patients generate and share.

Using mobileHealth to Advance Patient Health



Researchers at RTI developed the ARTEMIS (RTI-SMS) platform to support sending and receiving text messages for research purposes. The ARTEMIS platform is a Web service designed for researchers interested in investigating the use of text messaging to support health behavior change, including risk reduction, disease prevention, and chronic disease management.

Guiding Public Policy

Public- and private-sector decision makers view health IT as critical in the support of their health care programs (or critical in the management of their health care delivery systems). RTI provides research, policy analysis, and technical assistance to help policy makers understand and respond to the challenges of health IT adoption and use. We led a 5-year national research program on health information privacy and security, and we work with states across the country to identify and resolve barriers to secure health information exchange. RTI provides technical assistance to federal health programs in meeting requirements for the meaningful use of health IT. We continually assess the adoption and use of EHRs in the United States., and we convene health care leaders to develop recommendations for policy makers to improve federal EHR programs. Internationally, we work with government leaders to craft national strategies for health IT adoption and use.

RTI’s research is published in peer-reviewed journals, government agency publications, and trade media. Our staff have the skills and experience to transfer knowledge—using emerging technologies as well as traditional forms of information-sharing—to key stakeholders such as clinicians, consumers, and researchers. Through all of our work, RTI focuses on the outcomes enabled by health IT. We help governments, health care providers, and health care organizations understand the role of information and communication technologies in improving health care delivery, quality, safety, and cost management and evaluate the impact of health IT toward these ends.

More Information

Linda Dimitropoulos, PhD
Division Vice President
312.456.5246
lld@rti.org

RTI International
3040 E. Cornwallis Road, PO Box 12194
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2194 USA

RTI 6903 R3 1018



RTI International is an independent, nonprofit research institute dedicated to improving the human condition. Clients rely on us to answer questions that demand an objective and multidisciplinary approach—one that integrates expertise across the social and laboratory sciences, engineering, and international development. We believe in the promise of science, and we are inspired every day to deliver on that promise for the good of people, communities, and businesses around the world. For more information, visit www.rti.org.

RTI International is a registered trademark and a trade name of Research Triangle Institute.
The RTI logo is a registered trademark of Research Triangle Institute.