

# The Future of HealthMEDX

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# The Future of HealthMEDX

White Paper

## Overview

When partnering with a healthcare software provider, it is important to understand not only the current state of the organization but the future plans and where the company and product are heading. HealthMEDX has been an industry leader in long-term, home health, and rehab software for over a decade. Leading the industry takes significant planning and dedication to providers and patients alike. The following outlines the roadmap HealthMEDX has established to ensure the HealthMEDX Vision solution is continually meeting the growing needs of the industry.

## Principle Based Development with Industry Experts:

All development efforts for the HealthMEDX Vision solution must meet at least one of the guiding principles of the HealthMEDX organization. Each product enhancement must help increase productivity and efficiency, improve quality of care, manage risk, or support business growth. To ensure these goals are met for each care setting served, HealthMEDX employs a number of product analysts with decades of industry experience to guide product direction.

These experts identify industry weaknesses and develop product roadmaps to create solutions. The product analyst staff of former RN's, administrators, business office experts, and clinical experts then take the solution into client and non-client forums for solution validation. After feedback has been received and any necessary solution adjustments made, the final design scope is provided for development.

This approach to product development provides real value to clients and ensures continual product improvement with ongoing market need analysis.

## iRise Development Technology:

In Spring 2009, HealthMEDX brought on the iRise visualization solution for new solution analysis. Through the adoption of iRise visualization solutions, product analysts at HealthMEDX can now quickly build fully functional application models using the enterprise grade iRise visualization platform. Business stakeholders and product owners can interact with and fully experience proposed enhancements and new software before any coding is performed.

Being able to review new solutions in a simulated environment ensures the highest quality products are delivered to clients. iRise visualizations are also being tested directly with clinicians and administrators at HealthMEDX customer sites, giving the company invaluable feedback on usability and adoption potential.

With iRise, the market validation phase of product development is done before actual coding takes place. This allows HealthMEDX to provide enhancements that have been proven to meet market need within an appropriate development timeframe.

## **CCHIT Certification:**

With the growth of information technology in healthcare, the need for solution accreditation has grown as well. Recently, the Certification Commission for Health Information Technology (CCHIT) has moved focus from acute care EHR solutions to long-term and post-acute care EHR certification. Various solutions within the industry are considered EHRs; however, currently no third-party certification exists to establish the validity of these EHR functionality claims.

The goal date of 2011 has been set to release the first round of EHR certification standards for long-term and post-acute care solutions. CCHIT has turned to HealthMEDX as one of the various industry leaders to help determine the detailed requirements for certification of long-term care and post-acute care EHR. HealthMEDX co-chairs the CCHIT task force that is providing guidance on these requirements.

Outside of in-depth involvement with the CCHIT certification process, the HealthMEDX Vision solution is poised to be one of the first long-term care and post-acute care EHR products certified in 2011. The certification process will take place on an annual basis with new functionality requirements designated for each year's certification. HealthMEDX product development has appropriate resources designated to meet these requirements on an annual basis. This ensures clients are receiving an industry certified EHR solution.

## **EHR Certification FAQs:**

**Q: What is the Certification Commission for Health Information Technology (CCHIT)?**

A: CCHIT is a private non-profit group that certifies EHRs for hospitals, physicians and the LTPAC industry. CCHIT is currently the only established, recognized certification organization.

**Q: What is LTPAC?**

A: LTPAC stands for Long-Term and Post Acute Care. This includes Nursing Homes, Home Care, Hospice, Rehab (inpatient and outpatient) and other like care settings.

**Q: Is the government certifying EHRs?**

A: No. For physicians and hospitals to receive stimulus bill incentives, they must demonstrate meaningful use of certified EHRs. While the HHS department is responsible for overseeing the EHR criteria for stimulus incentives, CCHIT is currently the only organization that is performing the actual certification.

**Q: Are LTPAC providers eligible for ARRA (stimulus bill) incentives?**

A: Not at this time. The 2009 ARRA HITECH bill's incentives were limited to hospitals and physicians only. HealthMEDX is working with LTPAC industry groups to lobby for incentives for LTPAC providers in the future. So for LTPAC, EHR certification is a "buyers assurance" that the EHR has been proven to contain a minimum level of functionality.

**Q: What part is HealthMEDX playing in EHR certification?**

A: HealthMEDX is leading the effort. HealthMEDX co-founder, Dan Cobb, was named to the CCHIT LTPAC Advisory Task Force that set the strategy for EHR certification. In addition, he currently serves as the co-chair of the CCHIT LTPAC Work Group that builds the certification and testing criteria.

**Q: Are any LTC or Home Care EHRs certified yet?**

A: No. The target to complete the criteria and to begin certifying EHRs is June 2010.

**Q: Will HealthMEDX Vision EHR become certified?**

A: Yes. It is company's full intent for HealthMEDX Vision to become CCHIT certified at the earliest possible date.

**Q: Where can I learn more about CCHIT and EHR certification?**

A: The link to both the CCHIT LTPAC Advisory Task Force and Work Group sites are provided below. HealthMEDX clients may also contact their Customer Service Coordinator or Account Executive with any questions on EHR certification.

<http://www.cchit.org/about/atf/ltpac>

<http://www.cchit.org/workgroups/long-term-and-post-acute-care>



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