



The Office of the National Coordinator for
Health Information Technology



Rural and Critical Access Hospital Update

Health IT Policy Committee Meeting
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Putting the **I** in Health **IT**
www.HealthIT.gov





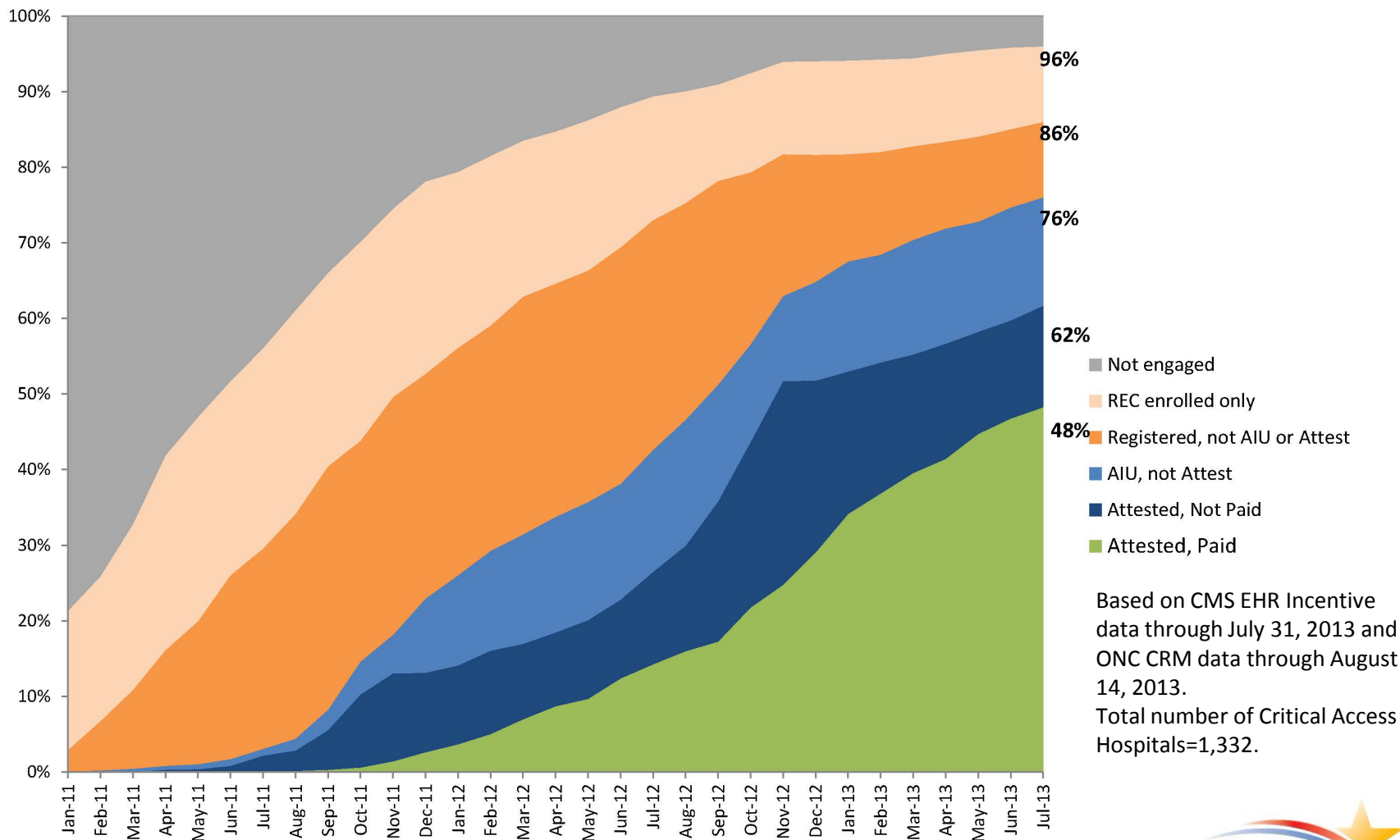
Wow! Over 1000 critical access and small, rural hospitals meet the Meaningful Use challenge!

As of July 31, 2013

1,115 (65%) CAHs and small, rural hospitals achieving Meaningful Use.

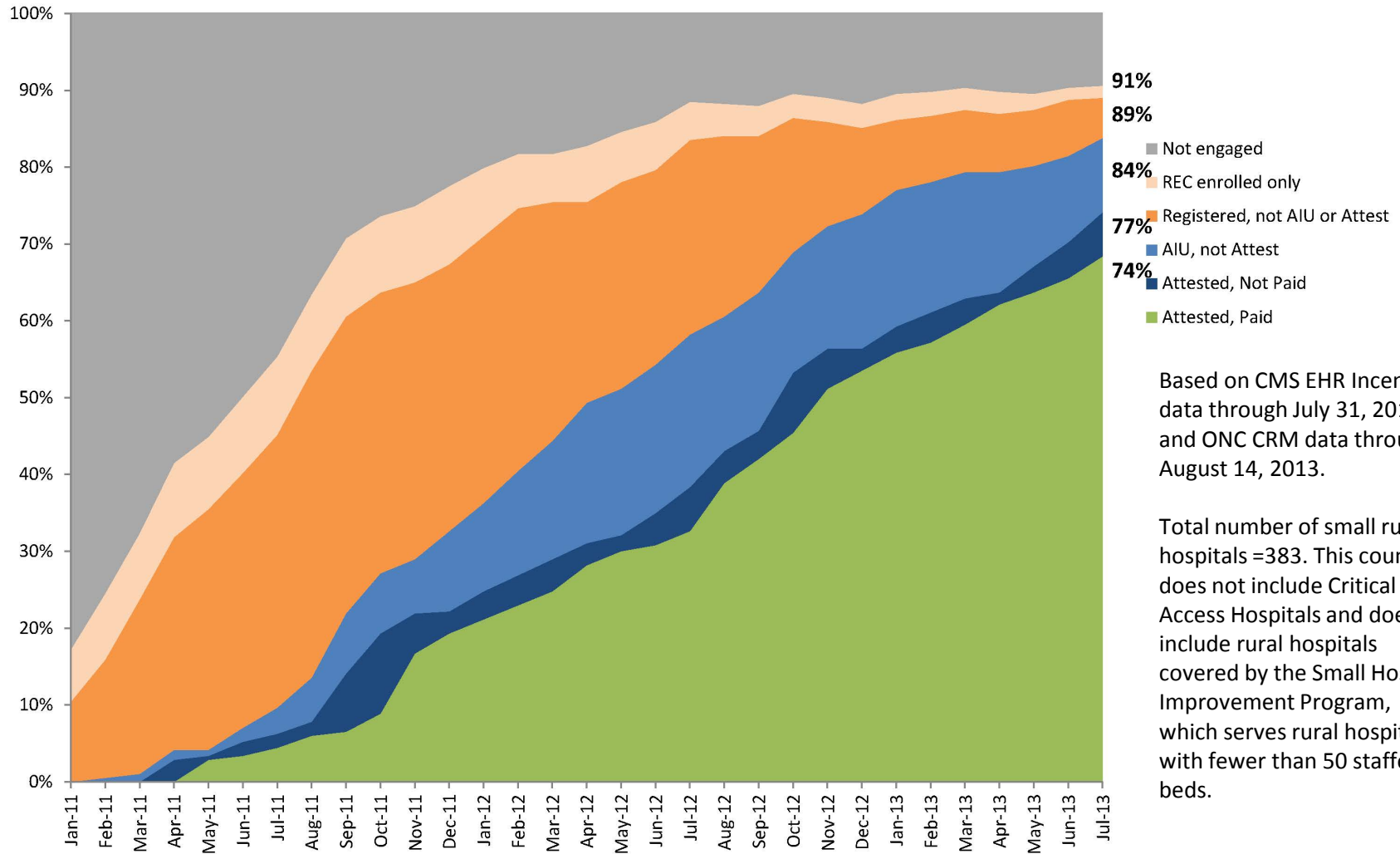
- 62% (approximately 822 of 1,332) of CAHs
- 77% (approximately 293 of 383) of small, rural hospitals (those generally with less than 50 staffed beds)

Progress Over Time Among Critical Access Hospitals



Based on CMS EHR Incentive data through July 31, 2013 and ONC CRM data through August 14, 2013.
Total number of Critical Access Hospitals=1,332.

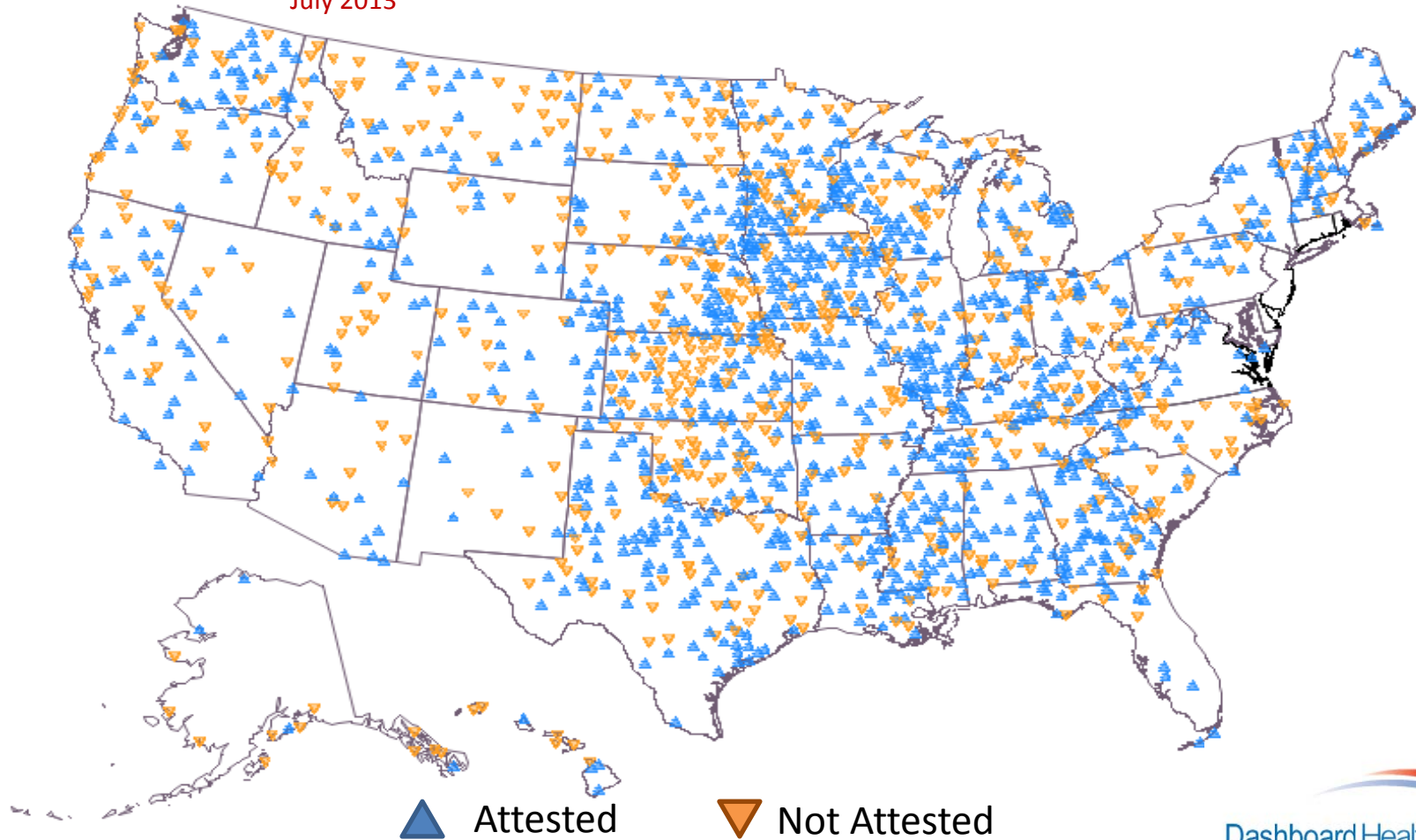
Progress Over Time Among Small Rural Hospitals (non Critical Access Hospitals)



Based on CMS EHR Incentive data through July 31, 2013 and ONC CRM data through August 14, 2013.

Total number of small rural hospitals = 383. This count does not include Critical Access Hospitals and does include rural hospitals covered by the Small Hospital Improvement Program, which serves rural hospitals with fewer than 50 staffed beds.

Location of Critical Access & Small Rural Hospitals by Attestation Status July 2013

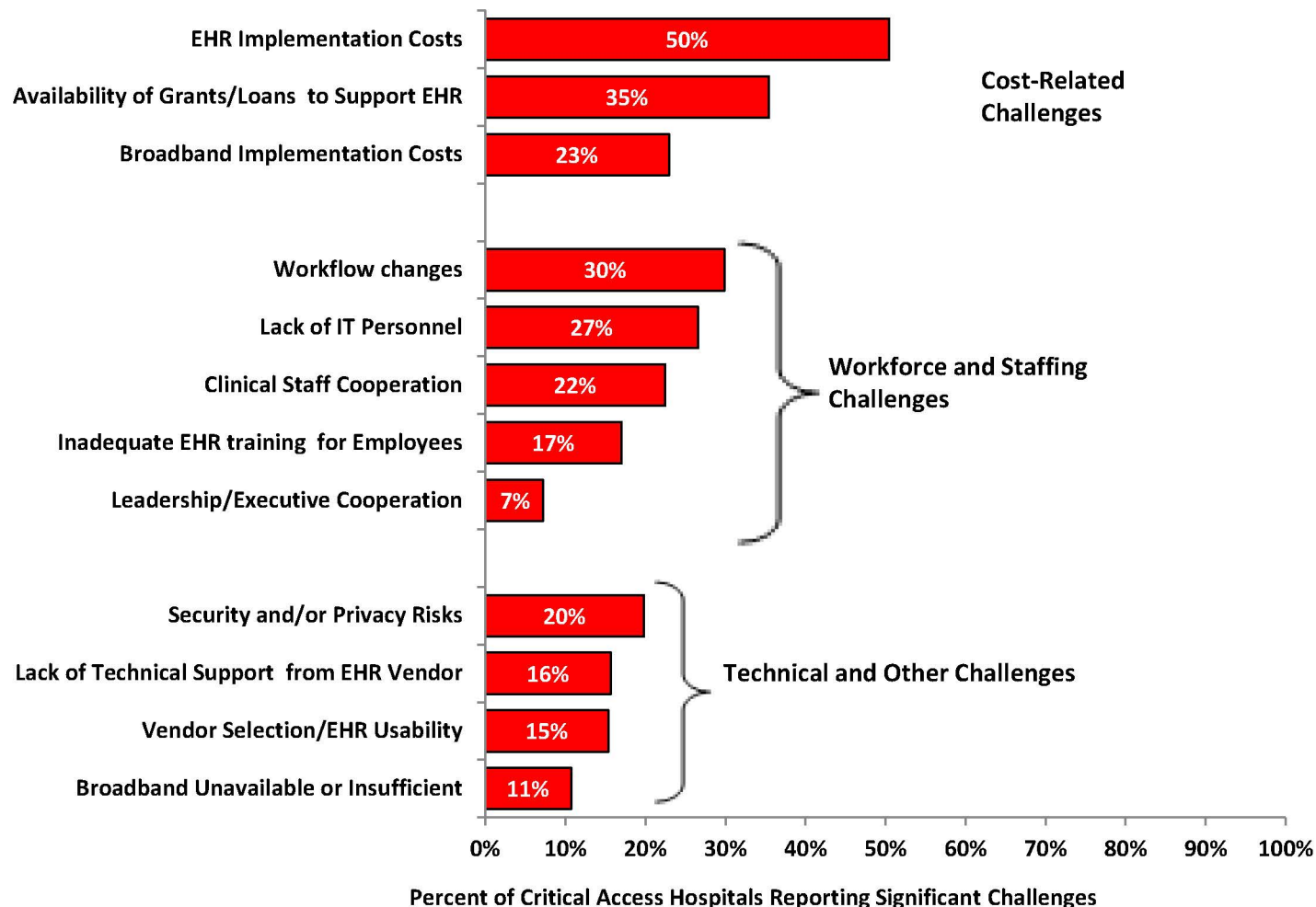


Map of Critical Access Hospitals as well as small rural hospitals (those covered by the Small Hospital Improvement Program, which serves rural hospitals with fewer than 50 staffed beds). Hospitals are identified as attested or not attested based on CMS EHR Incentive Program Meaningful Use attestation status as of July 31, 2013.

Rural Community of Practice

Maintain Situational Awareness

Severe Challenges: Funding, Broadband, Workforce, Technical



ONC and USDA Rural Development launched an initiative to expand funding for CAHs and rural hospitals.

FY 2013 Pilots: Over \$38 Million in funding to CAHs and rural hospitals across 4 states.

FY 2014: ONC and Rural Development are taking this initiative to scale nationwide.



Rural Community of Practice

Develop tools and resources

www.HealthIT.gov/RuralHealth

The screenshot shows the HealthIT.gov website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the HealthIT.gov logo and a search bar. Below the navigation bar, there are several tabs: 'Providers & Professionals', 'Patients & Families', and 'Policy Researchers & Implementers'. Under 'Providers & Professionals', there are sub-tabs for 'Benefits of EHRs', 'How to Implement EHRs', 'Privacy & Security', 'EHR Incentives & Certification', and 'Health Information Exchange (HIE)'. The 'How to Implement EHRs' sub-tab is selected, and the 'Rural Implementation Steps' page is displayed. The page has a yellow header with the title 'Rural Implementation Steps'. Below the header, there is a list of six steps, each with a numbered icon, a title, a brief description, and a 'Go to Step X' button.

The banner features the HealthIT.gov logo on the left. To the right of the logo, the text reads 'HealthIT.gov > For Providers & Professionals > Help Center > Rural Health Resources'. Below this, the main title 'Rural Health Resources' is displayed in a large, bold, blue font.

Resources for Critical Access Hospitals and Small Rural Hospitals

Learn more about the benefits of health IT and take the first step toward implementation and attaining meaningful use.

[How to Implement EHRs for CAHs and Rural Hospitals >](#)

- 1 Assess your Organization Readiness**
The first step in EHR implementation is to conduct an assessment of your current organization and its goals, needs, and financial and technical readiness. With an accurate view of your level of preparedness, your organization can design an implementation plan that meets the specific needs of your organization.
[Go to Step 1 >](#)
- 2 Plan Your Approach**
Planning draws on the information gathered during the assessment phase, to outline the organization's EHR implementation plan.
[Go to Step 2 >](#)
- 3 Select or Upgrade to a Certified EHR**
There are a number of steps involved in choosing the right EHR system for your organization. Eligible health care professionals and eligible hospitals must use certified EHR technology in order to achieve meaningful use and qualify for incentive payments. Looking to make your current EHRs meaningful use compliant? Start here.
[Go to Step 3 >](#)
- 4 Conduct Training & Implement an EHR System**
EHR implementation involves the installation of the EHR system and associated activities, such as training, mock "go-live," and pilot testing.
[Go to Step 4 >](#)
- 5 Achieve Meaningful Use**
The final phase of EHR implementation includes successfully attesting to demonstrating meaningful use of EHRs, and reassessing what you have learned from training and everyday use of the system.
[Go to Step 5 >](#)
- 6 Continue Quality Improvement**
Emphasizes continuous evaluation of your organization's goals and needs post-EHR-implementation to continue improving workflows that achieve the individual organization's goals while leveraging the functionality of electronic health records (EHRs).
[Go to Step 6 >](#)