

Electronic Health Records and

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1. Introduction

- An electronic health record (EHR) is a digital version of a patient's medical history.
- It supports continuity, accuracy, and accessibility of care.

2. Key Components

- Patient demographics, diagnoses, medications, and allergies.
- Laboratory results, imaging, and progress notes.
- **Interoperability**: the ability to share data across systems and providers.

3. Documentation Principles

- Records must be accurate, complete, timely, and legible.
- Entries should be objective and follow recognized standards.
- The principle "not documented, not done" emphasizes thorough recording.

4. Benefits

- Reduces errors through alerts and decision support.
- Improves coordination, efficiency, and data for research and billing.

5. Challenges and Safeguards

- Privacy and security must comply with regulations protecting health data.
- Access controls, audit trails, and confidentiality prevent breaches.