

Making IT work: harnessing the power of health IT to improve care in England (Wachter Review) – Terms of Reference

The review will inform the English health and care system's approach to the further implementation of IT in healthcare, in particular the use of electronic health records and other digital systems in the acute sector, to achieve the ambition of a paper free health and care system by 2020. It will have a particular focus on issues around successful clinical engagement with implementation.

Professor Wachter and the advisory board will:

- Review and articulate the factors impacting the successful adoption of health information systems in secondary and tertiary care in England, drawing relevant comparisons with the US experience;
- Provide a set of recommendations drawing on the key challenges, priorities and opportunities for the health and social care system in England. These recommendations will cover both the high level features of implementations and the best ways in which to engage clinicians in the adoption and use of such systems.

In making recommendations, the board will consider the following points:

- The experiences of clinicians and Trust leadership teams in the planning, implementation and adoption of digital systems and standards;
- The current capacity and capability of Trusts in understanding and commissioning of health IT systems and workflow/process changes.
- The current experiences of a number of Trusts using different systems and at different points in the adoption lifecycle;
- The impact and potential of digital systems on clinical workflows and on the relationship between patients and their clinicians and carers.

Evidence will be gathered through a combination of available written evidence, meetings with senior figures in the health and care system, and site visits to Trusts with varied experience of implementing IT systems.

Professor Wachter will report his recommendations to the Secretary of State for Health and the National Information Board in June 2016.