

Effects of health information technology on patient outcomes: a systematic review.

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<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/effects-health-information-technology-patient-outcomes-systematic-review>

Health information technology (IT) has had a [profound impact](#) on health care. Although health IT has led to efficiency gains and [improved safety](#), [unintended consequences](#) remain a concern. In this systematic review, researchers analyzed 69 studies from 2001 through 2012 that examined the use of health IT in a clinical setting and its effect on safety outcomes for patients. About one-third of the studies demonstrated a positive impact of health IT on patient safety outcomes, but many of these focused on the hospital setting, involved a single institution, and looked at [decision support](#) or [computerized provider order entry](#). The authors suggest that future studies should focus on other areas in which the impact of health IT remains understudied, such as in [outpatient](#) and long-term care settings, and they underscore the need for higher quality research. A recent [WebM&M commentary](#) described the unintended consequences of health IT.