

**Appendix 1: The anticipated benefits of electronic health record systems {posted as supplied by author}**

**To improve patient safety**

**To improve access and responsiveness by:**

Supporting clinical assessment of patients with urgent and emergency care needs

Supporting delivery of high quality care where patient communication/language is a barrier

**To improve clinical and cost effectiveness through:**

Communication of key data that will support integrated planning and delivery of care plans across different providers of care - particularly patients with long-term conditions

Better medicines management

**To improve the patient focus by:**

Providing safer care through the reduction in medication errors and adverse drug reactions

Facilitating patients to become partners in their care

Ensuring more integrated, joined-up care

Ensuring confidentiality is better protected

*Source: NHS Connecting for Health. NHS Connecting for Health Website.*

*<http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/> (last accessed 10/01/08)*