

EHR CERTIFICATIONS, RATINGS & AWARDS

There are a variety of organizations that provide evaluation services in this field. Some provide information about user satisfaction, such as KLAS, and others provide real-time evaluations of usability, such as Towards an Electronic Patient Record (TEPR). A recent addition to the field is the Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology (CCHIT), which has been provided substantial government funding to certify EHR products. The AC Group has been providing ratings of EHR software since 1996. The Microsoft Healthcare Users Group (MS-HUG) provides the MS-HUG Healthcare Innovation Awards.

CCHIT was formed in July 2004 by AHIMA, HIMSS and NAHIT, the American Health Information Management Association, the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society and the National Alliance for Health Information Technology, respectively. To become a CCHIT CertifiedSM EHR requires a score of 100% during an extensive 1 day testing period. In addition, there is a fee for application to become CCHIT Certified. Currently, only ambulatory EHRs are invited to participate, but it is anticipated that in 2007, inpatient software will be evaluated as well. The most recent testing criteria for 2007 were released on March 19th, 2007.

KLAS: KLAS, an acronym from the founders initials, and pronounced Class, has a very interesting, and time-consuming method of evaluating software. They provide opinions of EHRs based upon actual users of those software products. They monitor thousands of healthcare organizations and obtain their ratings in what would appear to be an impartial methodology. Unlike the ratings performed by most other rating entities, including ourselves, KLAS provides input from physicians and other healthcare providers who use the software that they are evaluating in their daily work flows. 'Best in KLAS' is a moniker which is provided to software firms which rank highly by their actual users. KLAS provides evaluations for a wide variety of software programs, categorizing them, in part by intended size of client base, such as Ambulatory EMR 1-5 physicians, Ambulatory EMR 6-25 physicians, and Ambulatory EMR Over 25 physicians. This database is extensive and may provide valuable information, and is available for sale on a per report basis.

EMRConsultant.com uses an extensive proprietary database containing hundreds of EHR companies with detailed information about them, enabling it to provide user specific ratings, which are offered free to physicians.

MS-HUG provides Healthcare Innovation Awards to software products which are based, naturally enough, on Microsoft technology. Awards are in a variety of categories, including Clinical Records - Inpatient, and Clinical Records - Ambulatory. For more information: <http://www.mshug.org/awards/awards.asp>.



○ | CCHIT - Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology. <http://www.cchit.org/>

○ | KLAS - Klas Enterprises LLC <http://www.healthcomputing.com/>

○ | EMRConsultant.com - EMRConsultant - <http://www.emrconsultant.com>

○ | MS-HUG - Microsoft Healthcare Users Group - <http://www.mshug.org>