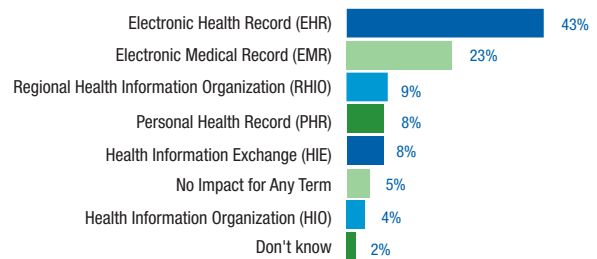


**Summary**

A recent report funded by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) and released by the National Alliance for Health IT proposes definitions to several key terms to eliminate confusion around the terms and to provide health care stakeholders with a common understanding of the important components of health information technology (HIT) infrastructure. Nearly two-thirds of respondents noted that the terms EHR and EMR would most benefit from this type of definition. It was understood that this common language, in and of itself, will not produce results. For results to occur, two thirds of respondents noted that it is critical for there to be a recognition of a body of standards that enables a working level of interoperability. Finally, slightly more than half of respondents feel that most people/organizations are ready to accept standardized definitions of these terms.

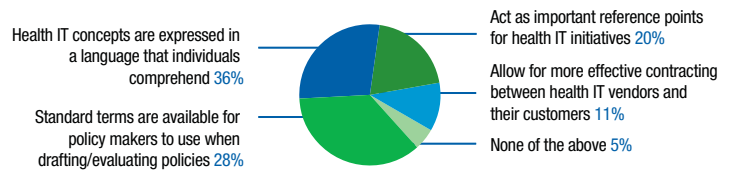
**Term to Benefit Most From Standard Definition**

Among the terms identified in this report, nearly two-thirds of respondents indicated that a clarification of the term EHR and EMR would benefit the most from a standard definition. Only five percent of respondents believed that this report would have no impact on any of the terms identified in this report.



**Most Benefit to the Industry from Standard Definitions**

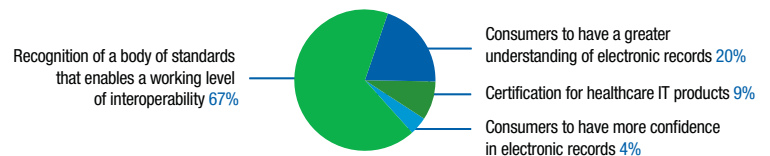
Slightly more than one-third of respondents noted that these terms were most likely to benefit the industry because they will provide a means by which health IT concepts can be expressed in a language that individuals can understand. However, large groups of respondents also indicated that making standard terms available for policy makers to use when drafting/evaluating policies and acting as important reference points for HIT initiatives will also benefit from the presence of standard definitions.



**Items of Most Importance:**

**Impact on Acceptance of Standard Terms**

When creating the definitions for these terms, it was understood that this common language, in and of itself, will not produce results. Respondents were asked to identify which industry issue is most important for these terms to have an impact. Two thirds of respondents noted that it is critical for there to be a recognition of a body of standards that enables a working level of interoperability. Consumer understanding and confidence in electronic records is also important—combined, 25 percent of respondents noted these issues.



**Readiness of Industry to Accept Standardized Definitions**

More than half of respondents believe that most people/organizations in the industry are ready to accept standardized definitions of the terms included in this report. Only eleven percent of respondents indicated either that few people/organizations were ready to accept these terms or that the industry is not ready for standard terms.

