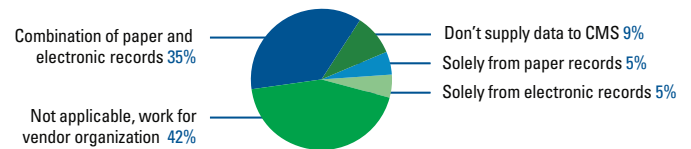


**Summary**

In April 2007, the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a findings report identifying the process whereby hospitals report quality data to CMS. Respondents noted that while IT is useful for providing assistance in compiling quality data, challenges arise since many organizations house data in both electronic and paper formats. The area respondents feel IT can be most beneficial is in locating patient data. Respondents also reported varied opinions regarding the usefulness of CMS' current process surrounding provision of quality data.

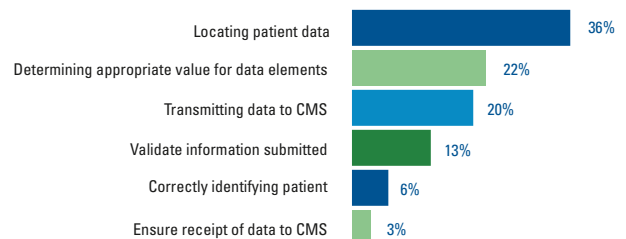
**Compilation of Quality Data for CMS**

Respondents were asked to identify the extent to which IT facilitates the collection and submission of the quality data to CMS. While this question didn't apply to 42 percent of respondents, one-third noted that they rely on a combination of paper and electronic records. Only five percent of respondents noted that all of their quality data is solely compiled from electronic records.



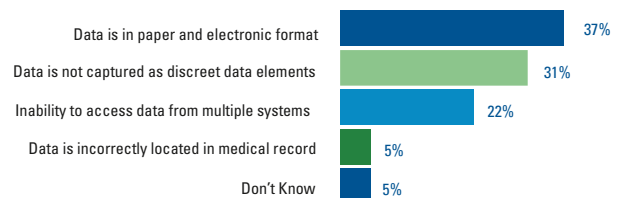
**Data Reporting: Area IT Can Most Improve**

The GAO outlined six steps needed to collect and submit quality data to CMS. One-third of respondents indicated that IT provides the most benefit with respect to locating patient data. Another quarter indicated that IT would have value with respect to determining appropriate value for data elements.



**Drawbacks With Automating Data Extraction for Quality Reporting**

Over one-third of respondents indicated the fact that data exists in multiple formats (i.e. both paper and electronic) is the biggest drawback to using IT to extract quality data for submission to CMS. Another third indicated that IT would not be of value in a scenario where data is not captured as discreet data elements.



**Extent to Which Current CMS Process Facilitates Appropriate Data Submission**

There is some disagreement about the usability of the current process CMS has set up to submit quality data. Thirty percent of respondents indicated that the current process does not facilitate direct data reporting. Another 21 percent indicated that the current process does facilitate data submission. The remaining respondents were unfamiliar with the process.

