

HIMSS[®] 26

EUROPE

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The HIMSS Assurance Framework (HAF)

EXPERT **INSIGHTS**
EXCEPTIONAL **IMPACT**

#HIMSS26EUROPE

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HIMSS Assurance FrameworkTM (HAF) Unpacked

The HIMSS Assurance Framework™ (HAF)....

“The HIMSS Assurance Framework (HAF) is a structured approach used by and on behalf of commissioning bodies and sponsoring agencies to provide confidence and assurance that healthcare providers using the HIMSS Maturity Models are producing results that accurately reflect their position.

This is a customised Assurance Framework to help hospitals demonstrate compliance with the HIMSS Maturity Models eg EMRAM (Electronic Medical Record Adoption Model) requirements — globally recognised benchmarks for assessing the maturity and adoption of technology and associated processes and workflows.



The HAF verifies the self assessment using a process of expert review.

Key Criteria for use



Commissioning body or Sponsoring agency



Seeking assurance, verification or certification



Regional or nationwide



Stages 0 to 5 only



Assurance is the act of giving confidence — it's about trust, reliability and verification.

When someone provides assurance, they are saying, “You can rely on this because it has been checked or confirmed.”

Using the HAF profiles....



A description of the profile. A hospital at EMRAM Stage 2 has moved beyond basic departmental system functionality and has now implemented a Clinical Data Repository (CDR), which provides a central facility for reports and results. There may be some early evidence that clinical documentation traditionally associated with paper-driven records is now collected electronically.



Focus of the profile. An EMRAM Stage 2 hospital is laying the essential groundwork for a comprehensive electronic patient record environment. It has automated core clinical processes, begun to capture clinical documentation electronically, and has some evidence of basic clinical decision support.



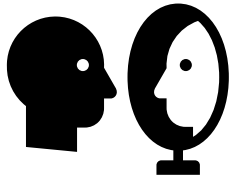
Benefits and outcomes associated with the profile. Hospitals achieving EMRAM Stage 2 tend to see early, but meaningful, benefit gains in quality, safety, and efficiency before becoming more paper-light. A list of likely benefits is included.



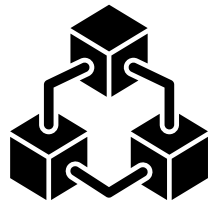
A glossary, document requirements and a list of frequently asked questions is included

Measuring against the profiles...

Types of Review



Self Assessment - is a cost-effective solution which encourages cross functional collaboration and ownership of the improvement initiatives. This approach supports continuous improvement, encouraging a culture of internal accountability and learning. However, there is a risk of bias and subjectivity and a lack of experience leading to misinterpretation of the criteria or scoring rules. Most importantly, this method lacks external validation and formal recognition or credibility with regulators, sponsors, and commissioners. Self-assessment is occasionally associated with inconsistency as untrained assessors and assessments may vary across departments or time periods.



Peer review - typically involves colleagues from other organisations with relevant expertise reviewing compliance or readiness in an organisation that is not their own. There is often shared learning allowing the reviewing peers to also gain insights for their own organisation. However, it is important for peers to be familiar with the specifics of the standards and to have formal training in assessing. This may prove costly and time consuming if done at scale or national level. There is also a risk of inconsistent evaluations depending on reviewers' backgrounds with a potential for bias or conflicts of interest. Peers may be too lenient to preserve relationships or in the expectation that this will be reciprocated or indeed too critical to assert superiority. Peer review findings usually do not satisfy regulatory or contractual requirements and cannot fully replace official assessments or accreditation where required.

Measuring against the profiles...

Types of Review

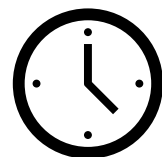


Expert Review - is independent and credible and provides an objective, third-party assessment free from internal or peer bias. The results are respected by regulators, funders, boards and industry partners leading to public recognition, benchmarking, and strategic partnerships. Expert review enhances organisational reputation, visibility and competitiveness and is often seen as the most reliable method to external accreditation, incentivisation schemes or to demonstrate compliance against strategic milestones.

Verification



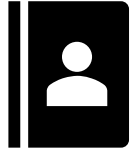
Confirmation - Following the assessment process, hospitals will receive confirmation of their baseline assessment and verification of their current position. This information will be shared with the sponsor, commissioner or ministerial body seeking assurance. The verification certificate will also be retained by HIMSS.



A decision will be made within 3 working days

The Combined Progress Report (CPR)

The CPR contains:



Demographic details and ID of the organisation being assessed



Overall achievements by Maturity Model Stage



Results from the rounds of data collection (T1 / T2 / T3)



Confirmation of progress / regress and current position

Appeals...



Hospitals may appeal any decision made by HIMSS if they believe that the organisation has met all the criteria for a higher stage, but this was not reflected in the final score, there was a misinterpretation of submitted evidence or a technical or procedural error occurred during the assessment process.

To appeal against an EMRAM score or related decision is not a legal process, but an internal administrative review conducted by HIMSS to reassess or clarify an organisation's digital maturity rating.

HIMSS is a non-governmental, independent organisation, so its appeals are voluntary and standards-based, not legal entitlements.

The final decision made by HIMSS is the final decision and will be recorded as such

Summary of main points:

1

A structured approach used by and on behalf of commissioning bodies and sponsoring agencies.

2

Designed to verify results of a self assessment using expert review

3

Verification - confirms the claim, the presence of emerging benefits and the progression potential of the organisation being measured

4

A final report and certificate is provided to the health care provider and to the commissioning bodies and sponsoring agencies



✓ Certificato di maturità digitale

Questo certificato riconosce i risultati ottenuti da Easton District Hospital per la propria maturità digitale e nel dimostrare progressi misurabili verso un ambiente di cartelle cliniche elettroniche completamente integrato.

	Data applicazione survey HIMSS EMRAM in modalità self assessment	Stage rilevato	Data certificazione con metodologia HIMSS Assurance Framework	Stage certificato
Prima applicazione HIMSS EMRAM	9/9/2024	0	11/18/2025	0
Seconda applicazione HIMSS EMRAM	9/15/2025	4	11/18/2025	2

Il processo di certificazione per il tramite della metodologia HIMSS® Assurance Framework™ (HAF) ha quindi verificato il complessivo allineamento dell'Ente con lo stage di maturità rilevato secondo le dimensioni chiave del modello di maturità HIMSS® EMRAM®:

- Data Capture e scambio di informazioni sanitarie (Health Information Exchange)
- Coinvolgimento dei pazienti
- Analisi dell'assistenza sanitaria (Healthcare Analytics) e misurazione dei risultati/esiti
- Gestione della resilienza
- Adozione da parte degli utenti clinici

Avendo raggiunto il livello di maturità **Stage 2** del modello HIMSS® EMRAM®, l'ente ha consolidato, tra gli altri:

- ✓ Un archivio di dati clinici (Clinical Data Repository) funzionale che integra i dati dei pazienti provenienti da sistemi diversi
- ✓ L'accesso elettronico ai dati dei pazienti da parte dei team sanitari e assistenziali, migliorando i flussi di lavoro clinici e il relativo coordinamento.
- ✓ La presenza di meccanismi embionali di supporto decisionale per il controllo degli errori, volti a migliorare la sicurezza dei pazienti
- ✓ La presenza di meccanismi di sicurezza dei dati per proteggere le informazioni dei pazienti e garantire la continuità del servizio

Questo risultato riflette un forte impegno dell'Ente verso la trasformazione digitale, l'assistenza sanitaria data-driven, il miglioramento continuo della qualità clinica e dell'efficienza operativa.

Congratulazioni!

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Thanks!

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