

GOVERNMENT HEALTH IT

IT guide provides a little help from friends

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Has an IT implementation project got you down?

Well, then, maybe it's time to try to recharge your efforts by perusing [these](#) "12 Steps of a Successful Health IT Project".

There is, of course, no one-size-fits-all approach to HIT implementation, but it seems safe to say that one stakeholder's experience is bound to have something to offer to other stakeholders.

After all, as the 12-step author, who is executive director of the Oregon Health Network, points out, "Formerly reserved for those with money and resources to invest, health IT is no longer optional. It's a core requirement for all providers and agencies that play a role in the health-care continuum. Furthermore, health IT's adoption and use go beyond the traditional quest for pure competitive advantage; health IT is truly the only effective means to survive and thrive."

With that reality in mind, she lays out, presumably based on her organization's experience, a "list of best practices to help health-care executives, providers and administrators recognize the critical elements required to implement and support a viable health IT infrastructure at the facility, state and national levels."

Most stakeholders will probably not find anything they haven't encountered in one place or another, but in any venture as complicated as HIT implementation, it doesn't hurt to encounter things you already knew articulated in perhaps a slightly different context.

We'll leave it to readers to walk the 12 steps on their own, if only as a refresher course, but we'll finish with a thought from the end of her list which seems particularly useful in these complicated times.

"The key, as a health-care provider, is to consciously determine what you can feasibly address on your own, and where you need to look to others for assistance."

Jeff Rowe blogs regularly at HITECHWatch.com.