

Wk 6: Select one ethical, legal, reimbursement, or accreditation issue to discuss that has implications for your practice as an INS and address how you would best handle them in practice

A legal issue for nurse informaticists that has implications in my practice area is liability for electronic health records (EHRs) errors. EHR errors can lead to incorrect treatment, misdiagnoses, and other adverse patient outcomes, resulting in legal action against healthcare providers and institutions.

To address this issue, several measures can be implemented. Thorough training helps ensure that all healthcare staff are adequately trained in using EHR systems to minimize the risk of errors (Booth et al., 2021). Clear documentation policies establish and enforce clear policies for documentation practices to ensure that all patient information is accurately and consistently recorded and should also be implemented with education for review (Booth et al., 2021; McGonigle & Mastrian, 2022). Regular updates and maintenance (such as downtime) keep EHR systems updated with the latest software updates and security patches to prevent technical issues that could lead to errors. Data validation and verification verify the accuracy of data entered into the EHR systems to catch and correct errors before they impact patient care (Akgün & Feder, 2025). Audit trails provide the ability to track changes made to patient records, allowing for identifying and correcting errors. Finally, a report and audit for compliance with regulations ensure adherence to relevant federal and state laws, such as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), which sets standards for protecting patient information and the accuracy of medical records (McGonigle & Mastrian, 2022).

By implementing these measures, nurse informaticists can help reduce the risk of errors in EHRs and ensure the accuracy and reliability of patient information.

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Akgün, K. M. & Feder, S. L. (2025). Whom should we regard as responsible for health record inaccuracies that hinder population-based fact finding? *American Medical Association Journal of Ethics*, 27(1): E6-13. <https://www.doi.org/10.1001/amajethics.2025.6>