EHR and Sustainability

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Defining Sustainability

- Write down 5 words you associate with sustainability

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Defining Sustainability

General Definition: maintaining an ecological balance while meeting our current needs and ensuring future generations’ ability to meet their needs
The Importance of Sustainability

- Environmental quality
  - Ecological limits
- Public health
- Economic stability
What Sustainability Doesn’t Look Like
A little closer to home...
What Sustainability Does Look Like
....and!
Activity

- Jot down ways EHR is and isn’t sustainable
Healthcare’s Ecological Footprint

- Energy use
- Water
- Waste
- Toxic chemicals
- Transportation
Sustainability and EHR

- Reducing paper use and waste
- Reducing transportation-related emissions
- Eliminating the need to build new offices (long term)
- Conserving natural resources
- Kaiser Permanente case
  - Digital imaging replaced x-ray imaging, reducing toxic waste
EHR, Sustainability, and Social Justice

- Technology enabling care providers to reach marginalized (geographically, socially, and/or economically) communities without needing to drive to or build new physical centers to meet

- Saves time and money, especially for patients
Some workflows still heavily rely on paper
- Resistance to make transition

- Manufacture and disposal of electronic devices needed to support EHR systems

- Computer servers that store data require a lot of energy
Activity

- Sustainability Scenarios
Conclusion + Resources

- Sustainability is part of everyday life
- Skyline sustainability efforts
- More information:
  - [http://www.footprintcalculator.org/](http://www.footprintcalculator.org/)
  - [https://share.kaiserpermanente.org/article/environmental-stewardship-overview/](https://share.kaiserpermanente.org/article/environmental-stewardship-overview/)
  - [https://www.ewg.org/](https://www.ewg.org/)
  - [https://grist.org/](https://grist.org/)
  - [https://www.environmentalscience.org/](https://www.environmentalscience.org/)
Thank you!

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