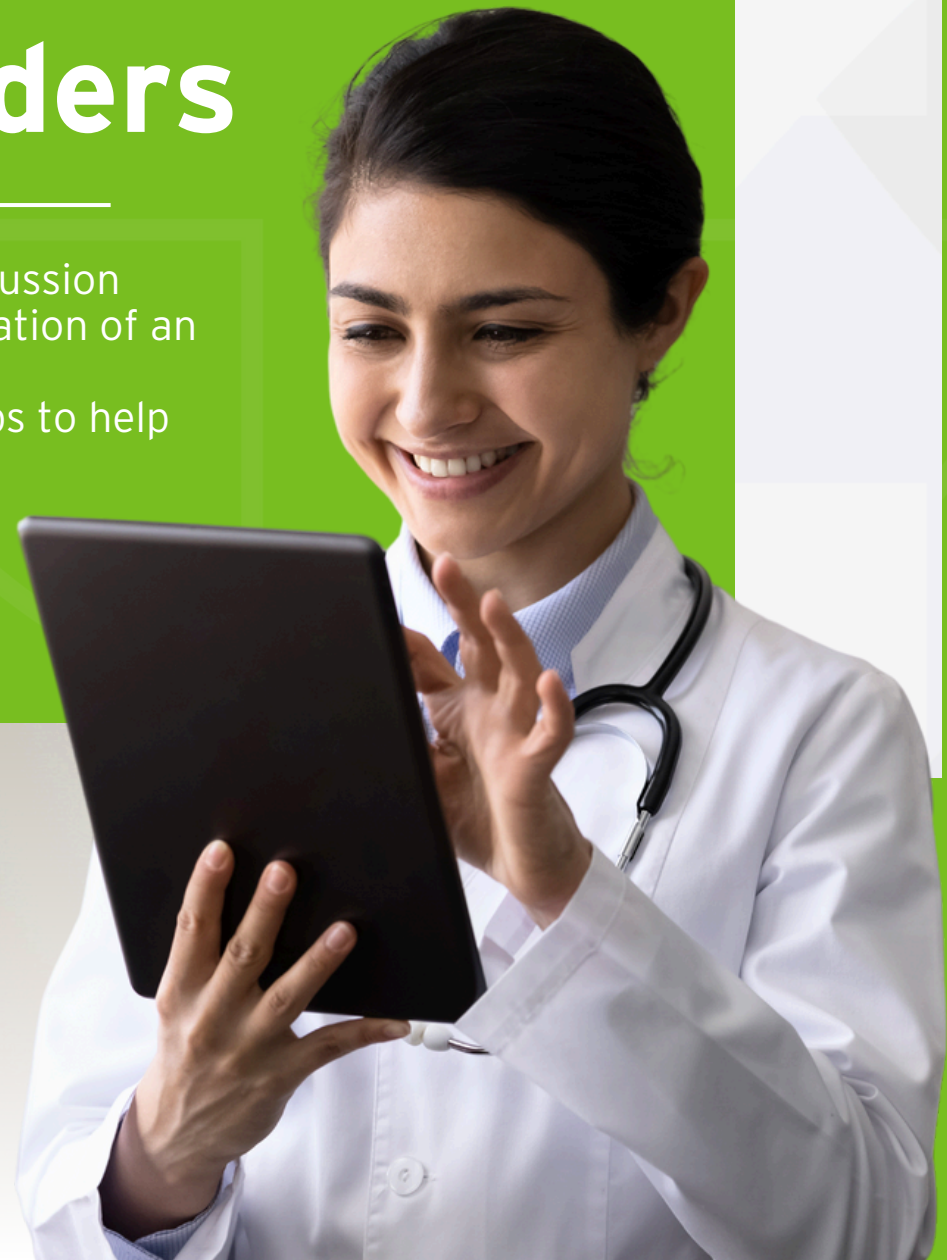


Navigating IREs:

7 discussion areas for health IT leaders

This guide is designed to facilitate productive discussion among health IT leaders regarding the implementation of an isolated recovery environment (IRE). It covers key considerations, benefits, challenges, and next steps to help your organization make an informed decision.



1

Understanding the threat landscape and the need for IREs

Desired outcome: a shared understanding of ransomware risks and the importance of cyber resiliency

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Significance of ransomware risks
- The effect of EHR downtime on patient care
- Potential financial/operational/reputational impacts
- Sufficiency of current disaster recovery plans

KEY QUESTIONS

- Have we experienced any security incidents or near misses in the past?
- What are our current recovery time and recovery point objectives for critical systems?
- How much would downtime cost us per hour/day?

2

Exploring the benefits of IREs

Desired outcome: a clear understanding of the advantages of implementing an IRE

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Enhancement of existing disaster recovery
- IRE benefits (business continuity, patient safety, compliance)
- Meeting emergency preparedness requirements
- Cyber insurance impact

KEY QUESTIONS

- How would an IRE improve our ability to recover from a ransomware attack?
- What are the potential cost savings associated with reduced downtime and improved recovery times?
- How can an IRE support our long-term growth and digital transformation initiatives?

3

Evaluating IRE implementation options

Desired outcome: a preliminary decision on the preferred IRE deployment model

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Types of deployments (on-premises, cloud-based, hybrid)
- Pros/cons of each model
- Alignment with organizational needs and budget

KEY QUESTIONS

- What are our specific requirements for scalability, performance, and security?
- Do we have the internal expertise to manage and maintain an IRE?
- What is our budget for IRE implementation and ongoing maintenance?

4

Vendor selection and strategic partnership

Desired outcome: a list of key criteria for vendor selection and a plan for evaluating potential partners

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Evaluation criteria (experience, security, compliance, support)
- Cloud provider considerations
- Implementation partner considerations
- Importance of healthcare IT expertise

KEY QUESTIONS

- Do we need a cloud vendor and a strategic partner with experience in Epic EHR environments?
- What level of support and training do we require from our IRE vendor and implementation partner?
- How will we ensure seamless integration between the IRE and our existing systems?

5

Addressing implementation challenges

Desired outcome: a plan for addressing potential challenges and ensuring a successful implementation

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Potential challenges (cost, complexity, integration)
- Implementation strategies
- Required internal resources and expertise

KEY QUESTIONS

- How will we manage the change within our organization and ensure buy-in from key stakeholders?
- What is our timeline for IRE implementation?
- How will we measure the success of the IRE implementation?



Next steps and action plan

Desired outcome: a clear action plan with assigned responsibilities and timelines

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Immediate next steps
- Responsibilities
- Timelines

KEY QUESTIONS

- When will we make a final decision on the preferred IRE deployment model, solution, and strategic implementation partner?
- How will we communicate our decision to the rest of the organization?
- What metrics will we use to track the ongoing performance and effectiveness of the IRE?

7

Ongoing monitoring and evaluation

Desired outcome: a plan for ongoing monitoring, evaluation, and continuous improvement of the IRE

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Performance monitoring
- Disaster recovery plan review/updates
- Team skill maintenance

KEY QUESTIONS

- What metrics will we track to measure the success of the IRE?
- How will we incorporate lessons learned into future planning and improvements?
- How will we stay updated on evolving threats and best practices in disaster recovery?



Want an industry-leading cloud provider and trusted Epic implementation partner to guide you through every step of the IRE process?

Contact Nordic today to discuss your priorities and learn more about our limited time, no-cost Amazon Web Services IRE implementation (available for the first 25 health systems that register by April 30, 2025).

