According to a Stateline report today, less than half of U.S. doctors (48.1 percent) have made the switch to electronic records. Nine states were significantly above the national average – except for Massachusetts, these states were clustered in the upper Midwest and the West. The seven states, and the District of Columbia, with rates significantly below the national average were clustered in the northeast.

Only 48 percent of U.S. doctors use electronic systems that track patients’ complete medical histories, including test results and prescribed medicines. Usage varies widely among states.

The Stateline article reports that usage of electronic records in the U.S. lags behind other nations. It also reports that primary care practices are more likely to use electronic records.

Roughly $750 billion – or 30 percent of health care spending – is wasted each year according to the landmark study on health care costs completed by the Institute of Medicine in 2012. The IOM compared use of information technology in the health sector to other areas of the economy and found health care to be far behind. They conclude, however, that the knowledge and tools do exist to
improve care and lower costs. This infographic [5] shows some ways to make those improvements.

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