Approach

Intrepid Ascent equips clients with the knowledge to make informed decisions, the tools to execute their plans effectively, and the momentum to sustain change. We provide a full cycle of consulting services on complex engagements, including research and analysis, strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, system and organizational design, implementation, management, and program evaluation. We also support clients with specific needs in any of our service areas.

**Service Areas:**

**health information exchange / interoperability**

The demand on health care provider organizations to share clinical data for improved care coordination has never been greater, particularly as value-based payment environments grow more common and population health management activities become business-as-usual. With the increasing maturity and adoption of national health IT standards, there are many options today for effective and affordable data exchange within large enterprises or across medical communities with a shared patient population.

**What we do:** Intrepid Ascent provides data exchange and interoperability strategic planning, IT systems and security analysis, vendor selection and technology implementation guidance, stakeholder engagement, governance and policy development, workflow and process improvement, and ongoing management services.

**population health management**

The health care system is transitioning from an episodic model of care focused on discrete patient encounters to a focus on population health outcomes. To thrive in this emerging landscape requires significant cultural and operational change and the data infrastructure to support it.

**What we do:** Intrepid Ascent coaches leadership teams on establishing a compelling vision for improving health outcomes, identifying high-impact measures, implementing effective change management, and embracing data-driven performance improvement, whether enterprise-wide or for specific payment or quality programs. Our services include population health needs assessments and strategic planning; vendor assessments; program and technology implementation; and program evaluation.

**health data protection**

With clinical data increasingly shared and manipulated across health care organizations, these organizations must develop appropriate safeguards against the potential misuse of patient health information. This is as much of a cultural and organizational challenge as it is a technical hurdle.

**What we do:** Intrepid Ascent provides guidance on the development and implementation of robust frameworks for health information privacy and security appropriate to clients’ contexts. We conduct assessments on privacy and security risks and on an organization’s security culture; assess the privacy impacts of planned data systems and services; and support the development of appropriate policies, data governance, and technical infrastructure for EHR, analytics, and/or HIE projects. Throughout, we help organizations bring the right mix of stakeholders to the table, from clinical system users who “know data” to information system staff versed in network security, to facilitate the identification of common assumptions and goals and to facilitate comprehensive organizational change management.

**Clinical Data Research Networks**

Local, regional, and national data networks enabling clinical research on a massive scale are gaining traction and promise to unleash tremendous new knowledge, but they also present a novel set of challenges for data sharing and use.

**What We Do:** Provide guidance to emerging clinical data research networks on governance, policy, and technology alignment. Facilitate partnerships between research-oriented academic medical centers and other health systems, payers, health information exchange organizations, and community clinics.

**electronic health record (EHR) optimization**

Providers need their EHRs to do more than ever, from simplified interfacing with other systems, to data analytics for population health management, to portals for patient engagement, to reporting in a value-based environment, and all with an improved user experience. Federal EHR certification criteria and quality objectives further drive requirements for EHR vendors and expectations from their users.

**What we do:** Intrepid Ascent supports organizations in maximizing the value of their current EHR and in selecting a new EHR if appropriate. We address technical dynamics such as integrating an EHR with other systems, and operational dynamics such as workflow redesign and IT system efficiency analysis. We also support organizations in meeting their most challenging federal and payer requirements such as transitions of care, patient engagement and access to information, and quality measure and public health reporting.