



# What is the safety case for health IT?

**A study of assurance practices in England**

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Dr Ibrahim Habli authored and led research into the area of safety cases and health IT within the NHS. This work established insights and has been cited in numerous papers, contributing to and influencing the industry in partnership with NHS Digital Clinical Safety team and the University of York where he is an Associate Professor of Safety-Critical Systems.

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Health IT (HIT) systems are increasingly becoming a core infrastructure technology in healthcare. However, failures of these systems, under certain conditions, can lead to patient harm and as such the safety case for HIT has to be explicitly made.

This study focuses on safety assurance practices of HIT in England and investigates how clinicians and engineers currently analyse, control and justify HIT safety risks. Recommended improvements included greater depth and clarity in hazard analysis and greater organisational support.

A link to the full paper is here:

[www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0925753517310238](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0925753517310238)

Improvements in the form of practical HIT-specific safety guidelines and tools are needed. The lack of publicly available examples of credible HIT safety cases is a major deficit. The publication of these examples can help clarify the significance of the HIT risk analysis evidence and identify the necessary expertise and organisational commitments.

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