



# PREPARING FOR HEAT AT YOUR HEALTH CENTER

## A Quick Action Guide



### STEPS TO GET STARTED: LOW COST AND LOW TECH

There are a number of ways to enhance clinician awareness about and protect patients from heat. Some require limited cost and technology to get started.



#### CHECK THE FORECAST

- Review [CDC's HeatRisk tool](#) weekly
- Sign-up for [Harvard C-CHANGE's Heat Alert emails](#)
- Keep track of your community's air quality with the [EPA AQLTracker](#)



#### LEARN MORE

- Spend 5 minutes: Take NACHC and CDC's [Microlearning course on heat](#)
- Review [CDC's heat resources](#)



#### TALK WITH LEADERSHIP

- Talk with leadership about patients' health risks from heat in your area
- Ask them to raise awareness about this issue with health center staff



#### PRINT & SHARE RESOURCES

Consider sharing, printing, and posting

- [Heat Tips and Action Plans](#)
- [CHILL'D Out Questions for Clinicians](#)
- Reach out to local newspapers or radio to share about heat and health

**HEAT POSES SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS TO HEALTH. TAKE  
ACTIONS TO PROTECT PATIENTS TODAY.**



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### LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY TO ALERT ABOUT HEAT: STEPS TO USE EHR'S AND TEXT PLATFORMS



#### 1. RESOURCE EXPLORATION

- Thoroughly evaluate the quality of existing data
- Identify and address any significant data gaps
- Understand and leverage your EHR system's capabilities



#### 5. DEVELOP HEAT ACTION PLANS

- Utilize [CDC resources for action plans](#)
- Customize plans for individual patient needs
- Manage medication storage during high temperatures



#### 2. PLAN WITH HEATRISK & AQI

- Utilize the HeatRisk tool for planning
- Regularly monitor the Air Quality Index (AQI)
- Plan preventive measures for vulnerable populations



#### 6. PATIENT COMMUNICATION

- Enhance patient engagement using various tools
- Integrate effective APIs for seamless communication
- Send automated, timely, and relevant messages



#### 3. PATIENT IDENTIFICATION

- Utilize the CHILL'D-Out Questionnaire
- Identify patients with high-risk health conditions
- Assess and mitigate medication-related heat risks



#### 7. DEPLOY & EDUCATE

- Configure the system and validate settings
- Obtain necessary approvals from relevant authorities
- Train users comprehensively and provide ongoing support



#### 4. INTEGRATE WITH EHR AND AVAILABLE TOOLS

- Import clinical heat value sets accurately
- Manage patient registries for high-risk groups
- Track and monitor high-risk patient populations



#### 8. EVALUATE & IMPROVE

- Define clear metrics for evaluating effectiveness
- Gather and analyze user feedback systematically
- Continuously improve based on feedback and data

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, PLEASE SEE THE [HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS MANAGEMENT IN EHR SYSTEMS IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE!](#)**

To learn more about a Health Center who has successfully implemented Heat-Event related messaging with their patients, read our [La Clinica spotlight!](#)



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