

# 5 Steps to Successful EHR Migration to the Cloud

Healthcare organizations (HCOs) today face extraordinary change that's impacting the industry at every turn:



Evolving population health challenged by chronic illnesses and new infections



Changing consumer expectations that drive new delivery methods

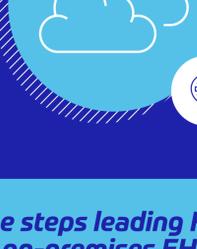


Shifting payment models and shrinking profit margins



Growing volumes of IoT data requiring analytics and management

**To take on the challenges, EHR migration to the cloud is essential**



Enhances organizational agility to manage change



Strengthens security and compliance required for the future of EHRs

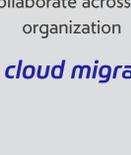


Accelerates opportunities for innovation that drive down costs and improve patient care and satisfaction

**Here are the steps leading HCOs recommend to successfully migrate an on-premises EHR to the cloud:**

## 1

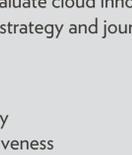
### Understand and communicate the business case



Collaborate across the organization



Target effectiveness and efficiency



Evaluate cloud innovation strategy and journey

#### EHR cloud migration benefits



Maximized technology infrastructure responsiveness



Increased scalability



Enhanced security and compliance



Control over costs



Accelerated opportunity for innovation

#### Customer Story

##### A healthcare organization's experience



Legacy Health — one of the largest community-owned nonprofit healthcare systems in the Portland, Oregon, area — moved its Epic disaster recovery system to Microsoft Azure, and Epic itself to a hybrid live environment.<sup>1</sup>

The health system reported:



**65%** reduction of operational disaster recovery costs



**\$500,000** savings by avoiding capital purchases



**7,700** concurrent users supported with improved experiences

## 2

### Engage the right partners

Successful EHR cloud migration requires conversation and collaboration with these 3 partner types:



**EHR provider**  
Your EHR provider can facilitate the migration process



**Cloud services provider**  
Choose a provider who works with your EHR vendor



**Technology services partner**  
The right technology services partner facilitates deployment

#### Customer Story



Microsoft is a leading enterprise cloud services provider with an extensive history in supporting EHR cloud migrations — including the successful migration of 20 of 20 Epic environments to Azure for Pennsylvania-based St. Luke's University Health Network.<sup>2</sup>

## 3

### Execute 6 best practices



Evaluate your organization's network connectivity

Deploy the appropriate cloud configuration with your EHR vendor



Procure and integrate the right cloud resources with your cloud services provider

Design and launch the migration with your technology services partner



Start with training environments, then incorporate production workloads

Evaluate migration results and optimize performance



## 4

### Reskill the workforce

To realize the full benefits of migration, IT staff need to learn how to leverage cloud flexibility and scalability to achieve existing goals and pilot new initiatives.

Alternatively, the technology services partner can assume management of the cloud infrastructure.



## 5

### Innovate

Migrating your EHR to Azure is an investment in innovation that can:

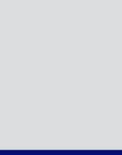


Help meet organizational goals, such as high-performance remote connectivity to frontline healthcare workers in weeks instead of months

#### Customer Story

After the successful migration of Epic to Azure, St. Luke's University Health Network leveraged Azure's capabilities to improve their security posture and disaster recovery capabilities.<sup>3</sup>

#### Ignite innovation by making EHR data available for advanced analytics, tools and technologies



Artificial intelligence (AI)



Natural language processing (NLP)



Text analytics

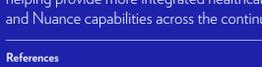


Advanced communication



Business process workflow analysis tools

To learn more about EHR migration to Azure, read our executive brief at [aka.ms/EHRExecutiveBrief](https://aka.ms/EHRExecutiveBrief), and visit [aka.ms/EpicOnAzure](https://aka.ms/EpicOnAzure).



About Microsoft Cloud for Healthcare

Microsoft Cloud for Healthcare provides trusted and integrated capabilities that makes it easier for organizations to create personalized patient experiences, gives health teams connected collaboration tools, and adopts data standards important to healthcare. Together with Nuance, customers can access the broadest and deepest set of trusted AI solutions to address the biggest challenges in healthcare. Organizations can use AI to give full visibility into data, relieve provider administrative burden, boost clinician productivity, and increase workflow automation to improve quality of care, transform the patient experience, and deliver better care faster and at a lower cost. Our growing ecosystem of partners are dedicated to serving customers by helping provide more integrated healthcare solutions or identify new opportunities for innovation that extend the core cloud and Nuance capabilities across the continuum of care. <https://aka.ms/cloudforhealthcare>.

#### References

1. Microsoft, "Community healthcare provider safeguards key system and cuts costs with Microsoft Azure." *Customer Stories*, July 27, 2019. <https://customers.microsoft.com/en-us/story/724167-legacy-health-health-provider-azure>.
2. Microsoft, "St. Luke's delivers exceptional, scalable service for providers and patients with Epic on Azure." *Customer Stories*, February 3, 2022. <https://customers.microsoft.com/en-us/story/1448101460179415636-st-lukes-university-health-network-azure-infrastructure>.
3. Microsoft, "St. Luke's University Health Network nurtures a commitment to innovation with Microsoft tools." *Customer Stories*, December 16, 2021. <https://customers.microsoft.com/en-us/story/1447295863892519179-st-luh-health-provider-m365-teams-rooms>.