*Write a quality improvement proposal, 5-7 pages in length, that provides your recommendations for expanding a hospital's HIT to include quality metrics that will help the organization qualify as an accountable care organization.*

*Introduction*

*Health care has undergone a transformation since the release of the Institute of Medicine's 2000 report To Err Is Human: Building a Safer Health System. The report highlighted medical errors as a contributing factor leading to poor patient outcomes. The Institute of Medicine challenged organizations to implement evidence-based performance improvement strategies in order to improve patient quality and safety. Multiple governmental and regulatory agencies, such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research (AHRQ), vowed to strengthen and improve incentives for participation, safety, quality, and efficiency in accountable care organizations (ACOs).*

*Health information technology (HIT) performs an essential role in improving health outcomes of individuals, the community, and populations. Health organizations, consumer advocacy groups, and regulatory committees have made a commitment to explore current and future opportunities that HIT offers to continue momentum to meet the Institute of Medicine's goal of improving safety and quality.*

*Understanding HIT is important to improving individual, community, and population access to health care and health information. HIT enables quick and easy access to information for both patients and providers. Accessible information has been shown to improve the patient care experience and reduce redundancies, thereby reducing health care costs.*

*This assessment provides an opportunity for you to make recommendations for expanding a hospital's HIT in ways that will help the hospital qualify as an ACO.*

*Reference*

*Institute of Medicine. (2000). To err is human: Building a safer health system. National Academies Press.*