



eCornerstone

www.iphca.org/eCornerstone/implement.htm

eCornerstone Usability Update

eCornerstone version 2.0 was released in July 2004. Of the many changes in that version, the most obvious change was related to usability of the application. Perhaps you have noticed a new color scheme or a new menu system or changes to the flow of many screens in the system. These changes were undertaken with the goal of improving the accessibility of the system for disabled users.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prescribes standards for Internet applications, like eCornerstone, that allow such systems to be used by disabled persons. Any system that follows these guidelines is deemed an "accessible system". Prior to version 2.0 of eCornerstone, limited functions were accessible to the disabled. Given the increasing user population of the system, we felt that now was the time to update the system for accessibility.

Happily, the team found that in improving the accessibility of the system, the overall usability of the system for all users was improved as well. We hope that all users of the system have seen an improvement in their productivity with the system, and that the system is easier for everyone to use.

Important parts of the accessibility/usability update include:

- ◆ A consistent user interface. The basic processes function similarly throughout the entire system. Also, navigation through the system is vastly improved with the use of the new menu system.
- ◆ A system that is operable without the use of a mouse. You should be able to use the tab key to access all input fields in the system, and the tab order should be logical. You might also notice that the first tab stop on all pages is a "skip menu" link. This link is very useful for visually-impaired users who are using a screen reader.
- ◆ A system that responds to changes in font sizes in the browser. You may know that you have some control over the text size displayed on web pages. In Internet Explorer, the "view" menu includes a "text size" item that you can use to change the size of text displayed on the screen. The eCornerstone system now responds to requests for changing the text size.
- ◆ Colors that provide sufficient contrast for the needs of those with varying degrees of color blindness.
- ◆ Many other behind-the-scenes technical changes that improve the usability of the system for visually-impaired users who are using a screen reader.

If you are a user who would benefit from the use of assistive technology while using eCornerstone, the Illinois Assistive Technology Project (<http://www.iltech.org/>) can provide assistance in obtaining the proper technology. And, as always, the Cornerstone Call Center® can be of assistance with any issue related to eCornerstone.

PLEASE NOTE: Important information regarding the eCornerstone system is communicated through emails from ecornerstonesupport@iphca.org, and is posted on the Illinois Primary Health Care Association's eCornerstone Web site at <http://www.iphca.org/eCornerstone/implement.htm>. **As you receive information, please read it carefully, and share it with other eCornerstone users at your site.**