

## WHY EMR?

In these turbulent economic times, the Federal government is enthusiastic that computerizing medicine will improve quality and reduce disparities. Computer technology has been shown over and over again to be capable of cutting costs in many other sectors, and the identified cost cutting targets in health care (duplication of tests, care coordination, administrative simplification, error reduction and standardization on Evidence Based Medicine) lend themselves very well to technological assistance.

### Benefits:

#### Patients:

- Improved access to personal medical data
- Improved longevity and health status
- Reduced reliance on memory or incomplete records when seeing multiple physicians
- Complete medical records
- Improved access to test results in a timely fashion
- Improved ability to self-manage chronic disease
- Improved privacy and security safeguards
- Patients will come to appreciate the convenience of communicating with health care providers over the internet

In a nutshell, your patients want you to implement that EMR so you can reduce the price of care and save them time (and money) by allowing them to manage their medical care in a manner similar to how they now manage their finances.

#### Providers:

- Physicians see an increase in revenue due to appropriate E&M coding, industry wide.
- EMRs can save by reducing costs associated with paper, including materials and labor.
- Electronic prescribing can save lives. Every year 1.5 million people become sick, injured, or killed from misread handwritten prescriptions.
- EMR allows you to document encounters in real time, eliminating the need to stay late catching up on your work.
- EMRs eliminate illegible medical histories.
- Order management can help your patients follow up on labs and procedures, which improves care and reduces your malpractice liability.
- EMRs allow you to backup and preserve data against catastrophes like fires or floods, which is impossible to do with paper charts.
- Electronic prescribing checks formulary eligibility for drugs – saving you the time and hassle of pharmacy call-backs.
- Improve the quality of care provided to patients and the community through continuity of care and patient safety (i.e. medication management, allergies, etc.
- Improved satisfaction among patients
- Remote access to patients' charts and speed of access to more complete medical data
- Reduction in lost charts
- Incorporation of standards to help improve patient outcomes and reduce medical errors
- Accurate and actionable medical information in a secure and private form, when and where it is needed by the clinicians who care for patients
- Templates that improve charge capture and documentation while reducing risks of fines associated with audits
- Improved timeliness of data
- Reduced reliance on manual transcriptions



### For Payers:

- Reduction in the cost of care as a result of reduction in duplicate clinical tests
- Increased ease and efficiency of access to records when appropriate
- Reduced cost of care related to medication errors and undesirable outcomes resulting from poor access to patient clinical data
- Decreased long-term cost of care resulting from a healthier population utilizing screening reminders and best practice alerts for wellness management

### For Communities:

- Automated bi-directional, standards-based reporting of critical public health information to state and local public health agencies
- Reduced excess health system cost or usage
- Quicker and simpler audits/results
- Secure, backed-up, accessible medical data in case of a natural or man-made disaster

The Meaningful Use requirements are strict and open standards to ensure users and sellers of EMRs work towards the same goal. Certification of software is set to provide assurance that the EMRs meet basic quality, safety, and efficiency standards. In the end, Electronic Medical Records can help lower costs, increase revenue, and save lives.

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