

## **Electronic Medical Records (EMR)**

The traditional paper-based medical record serves all the necessary aspects of clinical care. It is used to record and track each patient's care, allows healthcare workers to solve medical problems, and is consulted by various care providers to coordinate the healthcare process. In spite of the important role played by these paper-based medical record functions, several significant flaws hinder its usefulness like:

Limited availability – (available only at one place at a time) Fragmented, Poorly indexed, Often illegible

The purpose of an EMR (Electronic Medical Record) is to maintain the benefits of paper-based medical record while overcoming its limitations. Electronic Medical Record (EMR) is a single, permanent, legal document featuring the following key characteristics

- A compact structure in the form of a collection of documents
- Ability to encompass the variability and complexity of information and practices
- User-friendly method of examining records
- Increased Revenue by converting the chart rooms to Exam rooms
- Coding more accurately through the use of templates and coding feature
- Appropriate authorization
- Patients can get their test results earlier without having to invest on courier

Are Web Based Electronic Medical Records Secure?

Healthcare organizations are increasingly investing in clinical information systems such as an EMR, these systems evolve and vendors (like all other application software) are increasingly migrating to a web based or online EMR systems for as little as \$500/month some vendors offer a full featured EMR system for physician offices, providing advanced features such as charting, drug interactions, etc.

While some physician offices and provider groups have bought into this (partly because they require considerably lower investment than desktop based EMR software), there is still a lot of skepticism. Just as with any other new technology questions are being directed at the security of data on such systems. This is amplified due to sensitive patient data and, payment information residing in such systems.

There are standards that exist in healthcare when it comes to evaluating the security of web based Electronic Medical Records (EMR) systems. A considerable amount of time and efforts are made to secure data exchange, data storage and, data integrity.

How can Vendors secure medical data in web based EMR?

To protect data transmitted between a physician office and the server, vendors use HIPAA-compliant data encryption technologies, the standard being 128-bit secure socket layer (SSL) encryption. The servers are powered with firewalls to block illegitimate traffic, and intrusion detection systems to monitor when someone tries to hack the system. In addition, vendors safeguard the data center where the server exists, storing the server in a highly secure compartment with un-interruptible power, air filtration and advanced fire suppression systems. At the physician's office, software will have permission settings for each user, allowing them to access the EMR only during specified hours and days of the week.

We can help you with an integrated Electronic Medical Records application that can integrate seamlessly with multiple software applications that are used by practitioners. Physicians have secure real-time access to all patient care, treatment records and medical history. This application reduces the need for moving paper documents across practices and the use of Fax / email for exchanging information.

### **Features of EMR**

- a) The revolutionary Electronic Medical Record (EMR) software program helps the practice create a computerized patient record quickly.
- b) The context and content of the data are clear, which gives no chance for the user to misinterpret its meaning.
- c) Records readily available by a click of a button
- d) Users can selective and retrieve information by choice.
- e) Many users can access the system at the same time. (with user levels)
- f) Storage of data and retrieval is as per HIPAA regulation (secured 128 bit SSL)
- g) Access to patient Records day or night
- h) A flexible writing tool for comments etc.,
- i) A customizable patient summary screen, which helps to view the details as you want.

### **Process**

- 1) Physician or Hospital scans or sends medical records
- 2) Record received either thru hard copy or softcopy
- 3) These are scanned & dumped into a file share
- 4) There are 7 fields that are captured from the Medical Records
  - a) Patient Name (Last Name, First Name)
  - b) Date of Birth
  - c) Medical Record Number or Chart Number
  - d) Date of visit
  - e) Physician Name or Hospital Name
  - f) Dx Codes
  - g) CPT Codes
- 5) Once this information is keyed in and saved the system will assign a tracking number to this record (bar code)
- 6) To retrieve records you can search by
  - a) Patient Name (Last Name, First Name)
  - b) Date of Birth
  - c) Medical Record Number or Chart Number
  - e) Date of visit
  - f) Physician Name or Hospital Name
- 7) The record then can be viewed and printed or faxed or sent by email.