

Clinical Benefits of Electronic Medical Records - EMR

Published: September 26th, 2005

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As the 2nd part to our earlier article "Financial Benefits of Electronic Medical Records" we will explore the clinical benefits of [Electronic Medical Records](#). We have summarized these into 3 categories:

1. Improved Clinical Decision Making
2. Enhanced Documentation
3. Better Patient Care

Clinical Benefit #1 - Improved Clinical Decision Making

- Decision Support Features
- Adverse Drug Event Avoidance
- Health Maintenance Reminders
- Access to a More Complete Patient Record

[Electronic Medical Record Software](#) is packed with many tools to help doctors make better decisions. These range from diagnosis to prescribing medications to treatment plan recommendations. Most EMR's have built in PDR-based medication dictionaries, these provide doctors with Adverse Drug Event (ADE) alerts, generic drug recommendations and dosage recommendations. EMR's can also make treatment recommendations based off a patients' diagnosis.

Clinical Benefit #2 - Enhanced Documentation

- Improved Accuracy
- Improved Legibility
- Improved Completeness
- Improved Security
- Tailored Patient Education
- Advanced Reporting Capabilities

Through the use of computer network technology [Electronic Medical Record Software](#) permits more than one user to access a patient's chart at the same time. This helps ensure a more complete and accurate chart as all the information can be entered in real-time. With the new HIPAA laws, many offices using paper charts are exposing themselves to unnecessary risks. Most EMR's come equipped with a security administration module enabling administrators to manage access to patient records through user permissions. One of the greatest advantages to having patient documentation digitized is the ability to manipulate data for reporting capabilities. This becomes very useful for research reports, statistics, drug recalls and patient marketing.

Clinical Benefit #3 - Better Patient Care



Finally, the benefit of offering better patient care through the addition of all these new features may be the greatest benefit. Many doctors are now taking advantage of the internet to conduct web consultations. Being able to access patient data from anywhere in the world via a secure connection even allows the doctor to conduct web consultations or generate reports from home.

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