

May 2005 Newsletter

Which EHR Should I Buy?

It seems like everyone is selling an EHR. Everywhere you look there is an EHR Forum being sponsored by hospitals, drug companies, or malpractice carriers, just to name a few. Many of you may have received literature about the TEPR EMR Roadshow, which travels to 40 different cities in a 3-month time frame with several companies showing their EHR in ONE room.

So, how do you know which EHR is best for you?

Of course, my first instinct is to tell you to choose Charting Plus, but I will be objective. Consider asking a few basic questions when seeking out an EHR.

- What is your goal is using an EHR? Being paperless, better charting, accessibility, better coding? Sometimes it helps to talk through your thoughts on this.
- Establish a budget.
- Think about hardware, and if you can use the system with your existing computers. Buying new hardware can be very expensive, and you can certainly start small.
- Is it important for the EHR to integrate with your current Practice Management System?
- Is the EHR specific to your discipline?
- Is the EHR easy to tailor to your practice? Have the Sales Representative show the flexibility in a demo.
- Is portability available? And, is that an important feature to your practice?
- Ask about the company's hours for technical support and customer service, and how long it takes the company to get back to you?
- Is maintenance affordable, and are upgrades included?
- What is the learning curve? How long will it take your practice to get up to speed?

The best advice I can give you is to take "baby steps," but at the very least, TAKE that first step. The sooner you take a step, the sooner you will walk. And the sooner you walk, the sooner you will be off and running with your EHR.

Medical Records Institute - EMR Usage Survey

The Medical Records Institute has put together a survey to try putting some numbers behind EMR usage. If you would like to participate, it should take you about 15 minutes.

<http://www.medrecinst.com/survey/2005>

The intent of the Survey of Electronic Health Record Trends and Usage is to provide the industry with a balanced and objective measure of current EHR implementations and meaningful insights into market directions. The survey



accomplishes this by gathering responses from all types of healthcare providers including those in ambulatory and acute care settings, Integrated Delivery Networks, Managed Care Organizations and other settings. It assesses the implementation experiences and trends for a full array of applications and services related to EHRs.

The Medical Records Institute (MRI) will post the results for all of the questions in this survey on the MRI Web site by the first week in July for everyone in the industry to use at no charge. For those who are interested in a more detailed analysis of these results, a comprehensive report will be available in September 2005 at a modest cost.

Welch Allyn Interfaces - Now Available

We are proud to announce the integration of two new interfaces with Charting Plus. Purchased as separate add on modules, the Welch Allyn ECG interface and the Welch Allyn Vital Signs interface will bring a whole new level of functionality to Charting Plus.

MediNotes has developed an interface with Welch Allyn's ECG hardware. The interface allows interaction between Welch Allyn's ECG software, CardioPerfect, and Charting Plus. The Welch Allyn PCR PC-Based Resting ECGs turn any PC into a full-featured electrocardiograph. Intuitive Windows® operation makes it easy for your staff to learn and use, while the power and features of a PC-based system will save money and increase utilization of existing equipment. With its ability to interface with Charting Plus, you'll be able to spend less time with your paperwork and more time with your patients.

The ability to integrate with Welch Allyn's vital signs machines began with the release of Charting Plus 4.4.2. Purchasing this interface means that recording blood pressure, pulse, temperature and pulse ox measurements can be as simple as a button click. Take the measurements as you normally would and, when you are finished, click the Capture button on the screen. The measurements from the tests will be pulled into Charting Plus and highlighted in yellow. For users with the Welch Allyn integration still wanting to manually enter data, the functionality has been preserved.

Instant Medical History - Now Available

Beginning with Charting Plus version 4.4.6, users will gain the advantage of being able to integrate their Charting Plus with Primetime Medical Software's Instant Medical History (IMH) patient interview software.

IMH is designed to gather medical history and chief complaint details prior to the doctor's visit. Patients answer branching multiple-choice questionnaires online at home or at a kiosk in the practice. This information is then brought into the data objects Charting Plus, saving an average of 4 minutes per encounter!

Benefits to physicians who use Instant Medical History (IMH) include:

- More efficient patient interviews
- Additional revenue from treating more patients
- Dictation and transcription savings
- Improved documentation for coding/audits
- Reduction in EMR data entry

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me

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