

## **Benefits of Using an EMR or EHR Over Paper Charts**

**Legibility of Notes** – No more dealing with various handwriting styles since notes are typed.

**Accessibility of Charts** – Indexed and easily searchable by multiple identifiers. No more searching the entire clinic for a lost paper chart.

**Transcription Costs Savings** – Save on transcription costs by implementing an EMR.

**Space Savings** – Able to save space where they'd normally be storing shelves and shelves of paper charts.

**Eligibility for Pay-for-performance** – It could take two years or more for you to implement an EHR and implement a meaningful quality improvement mechanism that would lead to your receiving payments from these programs.

**New Physician Recruitment** – Many new physicians are looking for practices that use an EHR and will only work for an organization that uses an EHR.

**Multiple Users Use a Chart Simultaneously** – Most EMR programs support multiple users accessing a chart at the same time. Many even allow multiple people to chart notes at the same time also.

**Lab Results Returned Automatically** – This depends on a lab interface, but is more reliable and integrated with the care given.

**X-Ray Results Returned Automatically** – This also depends on a X-ray interface, but has the same possible benefits of a lab interface.

**Save a Tree and the Environment** – You won't eliminate your use of paper, but you can significantly reduce the amount of paper/charts you use in your practice.

**Electronic Prescriptions** – Scripts sent electronically or printed out avoid problems of legibility by the pharmacy receiving the script.

**Spell check** – Many EMR software includes a spell check and often even include a medical dictionary.

**Disaster Recovery** – Depending on your EMR backup schedule, you can store a copy of your data in multiple locations for better disaster recovery. Plus, in an emergency you could carry a backup of your data with you. Think about how you'd carry a room full of charts with you in an emergency.

**Drug to Drug Interaction Checking** – Most EMR provide a database of Drug to Drug interactions when writing a prescription.

**Drug to Allergy Interaction Checking** – Most EMR provide a database of Drug to Allergy Interaction checking when writing a prescription.

**Patient Safety** – Better information access, reduced gaps in communication between providers and reduction in duplicate testing.

**Quality of Care**

**Increased Efficiency**

**Improved Workflow**

**Improved Patient Communications**

**Improved Accuracy for Coding Evaluation and Management**

**Improved Drug Refill Capabilities**

**Improved Charge Capture**

**Improved Claim Submission Process**

**Reduced Medical Records Transportation Costs**