

EMR in Actual Practice

How it works in the real world



Family Doctor
Solo Practice
using EMR

Peter Y. Cho, M.D. Family Practice, Ukiah, California



Benefits of EMR in patient care

- Better access to data
- Prevents or reduces errors
- Improves health maintenance
- Improves patient compliance
- Better prescription management
- Improves security of patient information



EMR benefits patient care via better Access

- Immediate access to patient records – better advice over the phone, better care in the hospital or anywhere with internet access
- Records immediately available for referrals to consultants or other ancillary health providers
- No missing charts – ever!



EMR benefits patient care by preventing errors

- Patient photo identification prevents wrong patient chart pulls and mischarting especially in cases like “Maria Gonzalez” when practices may have many with same name
- Easily maintained problem, medication and allergy lists



EMR benefits patient care via documentation accuracy

- Improved chart quality: All notes, prescriptions, documentation are legible.
- No interpretation mistakes.
- Notes are flagged for MD signature so chart note completion is facilitated.



EMR benefits patient care by improved health maintenance

- Health maintenance reminders encourage preventative health care issues to be addressed at all visits



EMR benefits patient care by improved health maintenance

- Health maintenance reminders encourage preventative health care issues to be addressed at all visits
- Diagnosis specific templates have protocol reminders for evidence based medicine guidelines
- Patient education printouts easily available



EMR benefits patient care by improving compliance

- Patient recall modules provide reminders for patients to insure continuity of care.
- Order tracking of test results monitor patient compliance



EMR benefits patient care with better prescription management

- Allergy and adverse reaction alerts reduce prescribing errors.
- Automatic drug interaction alerts reduces incidents of the patient returning with drug interaction complaints.
- Immediate access to drug side effect profile, precautions and warnings.
- Drug recalls can be implemented through the patient database which will allow to more timely notification of patients eg Vioxx, Bextra, Baycol, Rezulin, Seldane, Propulsid etc.



EMR benefits patient care by improved Security



- Access control -- patient confidentiality improved by the use of assigned privileges by password or biometric security device
- Backup protection for medical records against disaster such as fire or flood with a proper backup of EMR database



Simply having an EMR
does not guarantee
higher quality of care



EMR benefits in the Future



- Universal portable medical records
- Online/smartcard medical records
- Photo/video medical documentation
- Enhanced telemedicine
- ???

