

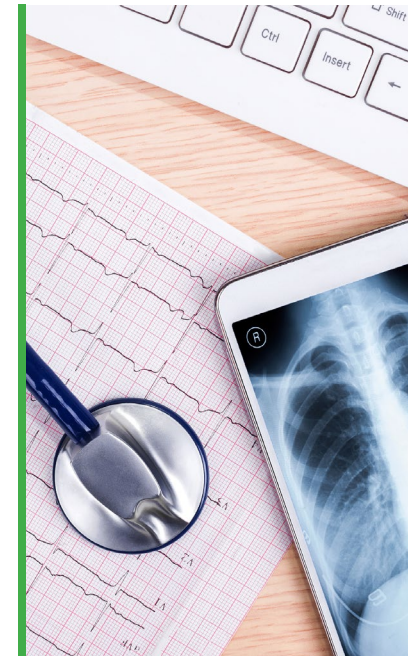


Check your practice: Adopting EMRs in the Patient's Medical Home

Best Advice Guide: Quick Reference

The shift from paper-based patient records to electronic medical records (EMRs) is recognized as integral in the evolution of the delivery of care in family medicine.

As EMR tools continue to develop, new possibilities for their application come to light. In addition to supporting the health care system, EMRs can help improve the delivery of care in community-based practices by enhancing productivity and processes. Such benefits include better team collaboration, improved continuity of care, improved accessibility, further engagement with patients, and the ability to track data over time.



Consider the following tips for your practice:



Define practice needs: Many needs are common across practices, but individual family physicians might identify needs that are unique to their practice. Physicians can consider how they manage day-to-day clinic activities and factors, such as clinic team composition and location, to help define their needs.



Select an EMR: Physicians selecting an EMR should spend time researching and communicating with vendors, to ensure a clear understanding of what is included before making the purchase.



Determine resource requirements: When establishing a budget, physicians need to consider costs that might be incurred during project implementation, as well as costs for supporting the ongoing operation of the EMR system.



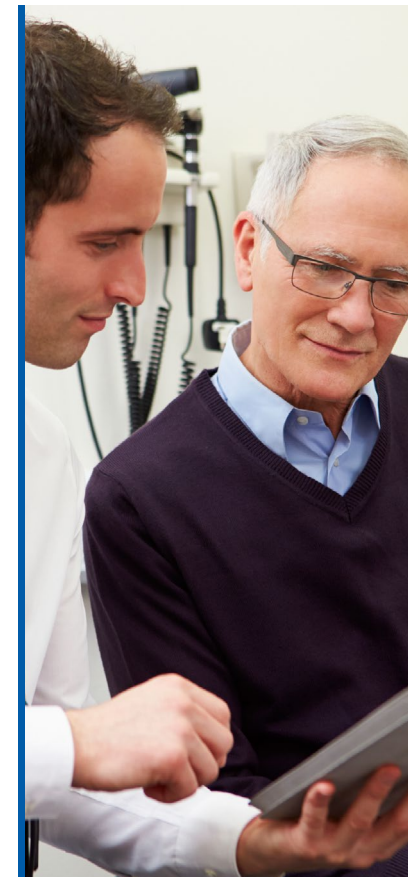
Transfer from paper charts to EMRs: Paper records can either be scanned into the system as images, or the data can be entered manually into the EMRs. Regardless of the method used to transfer information, personal patient information contained within the records must remain secure at all times.



Learn how to use an EMR: There are many courses available from a variety of sources, including EMR vendors, hospitals, and universities, which can help further the physician's and team's knowledge of tools to use within the EMR system in their practice. These learning courses are offered in different formats, including live events and online modules.



Include patients in EMR use: When patients have access to their personal health records, it allows them to be more engaged in their health care. EMRs are also a great way for family doctors to use checklists, alerts, and predictive tools to help stay up to date on a patient's progress.



For more information about strategies for adopting EMRs in the [Patient's Medical Home](#) and for details about resources available to you, refer to [Best Advice Guide: Adopting EMRs in a Patient's Medical Home](#).

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