



U.S. Electronic Medical Records System for Endocrinologists

Society Member Discount from eClinicalWorks

By Holly Whelan*



U.S. physician offices with towering filing cabinets containing paper patient records are fast becoming relics as the nation shifts toward electronic medical records (EMRs). The change can be expensive and time consuming, but ultimately will benefit both health care personnel and patients.

Companies offering help to physicians' offices and selling proprietary conversion systems abound, so the first challenge is sorting out which approach works best for a particular physician's office. The Endocrine Society spent 2 years investigating EMR systems that suit endocrinologists' needs.

Specifically, the Society's Practice Management Task Force of the Clinical Affairs Core Committee researched and evaluated multiple systems and pinpointed eClinicalWorks as one that is suitable for an endocrinology practice. The Society developed an agreement with the firm so that members are eligible for a 10% discount on the license fee for eClinicalWorks Electronic Medical Records and Practice Management Unified Upfront Solution programs.

Among the aspects of eClinicalWorks' EMR product that will benefit endocrinologists is its ability to manage patient flow, access patient records in-house or remotely, communicate electronically with referring physicians, and send secure consult notes and clinical data. Users can access and review complete patient histories, including past visits, current medications, allergies, labs, and charts. The system also helps with reporting and clinical guidelines, and provides pertinent patient information, including problem lists, allergies, medication history, and lab results. Unified with the EMR is eClinicalWorks' practice management system, designed to streamline the medical billing process.

For information on eClinicalWorks and the product discount, visit www.eclinicalworks.com or call 508-836-2700. Additional questions can be directed to *Holly Whelan, Associate Director of Health Policy, The Endocrine Society, at hwhelan@endo-society.org.

Doctors Should Attend to Wikipedia

By Jacqueline Ruttimann, Ph.D.
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It turns out the doctor may not be the first source patients consult when something goes awry with their health—it's the Internet. Numerous patients are clicking on Web links to find answers to their health-related questions. To help ensure that patients find correct

and pertinent information, physicians should become more active on sites such as Wikipedia—the most prominent online encyclopedia—for which entries are contributed and edited on a voluntary basis by the general public. Although such sources contain vast amounts of helpful information, not all entries are accurate or comprehensive.

The suggestion for more physician involvement in this area comes from a study published recently in the *Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association*.^{*} Authors Michael R. Laurent, B.Sc., a medical student at Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, and Tim J. Vickers, Ph.D., a postdoctoral researcher at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., measured how often Wikipedia showed up early on Web search engines such as Google when health-related terms were entered.

The duo found that for 71%–85% of the keywords tested in these search engines, Wikipedia came up within the first 10 results.

Medical professionals should therefore be aware that Wikipedia has become a popular online source of health information for consumers, they wrote, adding that doctors, along with patient groups and associations, can help improve Wikipedia's quality by participating.

Information on how to write for Wikipedia is at www.wikihow.com/Write-a-Wikipedia-Article. ■

* Reference:

Laurent MR, Vickers TJ. Seeking health information online: does Wikipedia matter? *J Am Med Inform Assoc*, 2009, Apr 23. [Epub ahead of print].

