



18 BARRINGTON LANE
 CHESTER SPRINGS, PA

News & Events

Cerner

- Announces new release in 2007

Eclipsys

- 10/7—10/10 User Network Conference

Epic

- 9/17—9/21 Epic User Group

Meditech

- Acquires Patient Care Technologies

NextGen

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Siemens

- 8/12—8/15 Health Services Innovations, Philadelphia, PA

HIMSS

- NJ - 6/21 Spring Event in Princeton, NJ
- NJ - Annual Event Fall 2007
- NY - Annual Event Spring 2008
- PA/DE -6/7 Educational Event, Philadelphia, PA

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Multiple Methods For Documenting Within An Electronic Medical Record

A physician no longer needs to be an excellent typist in order to efficiently document their patient encounter into their Electronic Medical Record (EMR). Technology advances and varying EMR software architecture designs provide physicians with a variety of methods to document their notes from a patient encounter. This article will review the following methods:



1. Free text keying of information into the EMR.
2. Utilizing pre-defined or “canned” documentation.
3. Utilization of “point and click” templates to create documentation.
4. Use of Voice Recognition software.

The use of each of these methods varies according to a particular need or skill of the physician:

Method	Pros	Cons
Free Text	Simple to Use Allows for personalization	Time Consuming No discrete data elements
Canned Reports	Saves Time Provides a level of Standardization	Initial set-up time required Often requires editing
Point and Click	Simple to Use Often maximizes billing coding	Minimal personalization Sterile/mechanical note
Voice Recognition	Great for complex specialties Reduces Transcription Costs Allows for Personalization	Initial ramp-up time No discrete data elements Technology bolt-ons

Voice Recognition Is a growing approach that Physicians in more complex specialties with limited standard documentation scenarios tend to lean towards, as the use of Voice Recognition software frees them from the keyboard and allows a rapidly completed note. Using a microphone, the physician simply activates the Voice Recognition software, generates the note by speaking and then performs any necessary editing. Upon completion, the note is electronically signed by the physician is ready for distribution to referring and consulting physicians. In addition, the Voice Recognition software can be combined to be used with the “canned reports” to further accelerate the development of the note. Although Voice Recognition software has made significant strides in accurately recognizing spoken phrases, some issues may arise due to unrecognizable speech patterns, phrases and accents. In addition, some physicians have found that their patients are uncomfortable with their physician wearing a headset in the exam room.

The successful deployment of an EMR can have far reaching benefits ranging from overall improvement of patient care, enhancement of operational efficiency and support of evolving pay-for-performance initiatives. The physician’s productivity is the key to reaching these benefits.

MedMatica Consulting Associates is a healthcare information technology consulting firm that specializes in the implementation of Electronic Medical Record software and technology solutions within the healthcare industry. To learn more about MedMatica Consulting Associates, please contact Michael Restuccia at (610) 827-1356 or mrestuccia@medmatica.com.

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