EMR and Practice Management Replacement 101

Medical practices depend on their Electronic Medical Record (EMR) and Practice Management (PM) systems every day to optimize workflows, profitability and standards of patient care. In theory, any EMR or PM should be able to help practices find this kind of efficiency, however not all systems are created equal. For many reasons from product issues to vendor stability, practices across the country are replacing their systems. If you are considering replacing your EMR or PM or both, listed below are some helpful tips to consider when choosing your solution. With such a significant investment of both time and money, it is important to get the most value of your EMR and PM solution.

Tips for EMR and PM Replacement

1. **Define product needs.** Since you have already spent time using an EMR, you probably know what you like and don't like. Take time to write a list of your "must haves" in a system, and also what you don't want to see again. Remember to think about workflows, mobility, and interfaces.

2. **Define service needs.** When something goes wrong, the service team is who you're going to want to call. This is an important and often forgotten aspect of owning an EMR solution. Define what is important to you from a service team. Do they need to be available 24/7? Do you prefer the team be US-based? Capture your key needs.

3. **Meaningful Use.** Selecting a vendor that can help you successfully navigate the ongoing and evolving government regulations is critical in today's healthcare environment. When are you going to be attesting to Meaningful Use? What do you need to consider long term?

4. **Data migration.** Since you are considering a new EMR, you will also need to consider what data from your existing system you would like to bring over to your new EMR. The vendor that you select should provide a straightforward data migration solution and be able to work with your practice throughout the process. Make sure to clarify how they bring over not only demographics, but also medication lists, orders, and labs.

5. **Vendor.** Today's market offers a wide variety of Healthcare IT vendors to choose from for a replacement solution. A vendor with proven long term stability, track record and resources to deliver a comprehensive solution are critical areas to consider in order to minimize future challenges.

6. **Establish a decision team.** Pulling together a team that accurately represents your whole practice is a critical step in ensuring a smooth transition to a new system. Representing the many functions within your practice on your decision team will help establish a strong level of commitment to the new EMR solution as well as the team-oriented process of adopting it.

7. **Align priorities.** Talk to the decision team and give each participant a chance to weigh-in. It is important to drive alignment around priorities to ensure success. If everyone has shared an opinion they will be much more likely to want to help the system succeed when it goes live.

8. **Create a plan.** Work with your decision team and new vendor to outline key milestones and a timeline for adopting the new system. Following a plan will help your practice achieve on-time project deliverables and ultimately minimize workflow disruptions during implementation.

Centricity Practice Solution from GE Healthcare is the best choice when replacing your EMR or PM System

Centricity Practice Solution is a fully integrated EMR and Practice Management system designed to enhance the clinical and financial productivity of your ambulatory practice. With exceptional customization, progressive technology, and seamless interoperability, Centricity Practice Solution enables you to spend more time with patients and to build your best practice.

If you are looking for a new EMR and PM system, we know that you must already be experiencing some frustration with your practice's current technology. What makes Centricity Practice Solution the best option for a replacement EMR is simple.

Dependable service. Our team offers the service and support that your practice needs to feel confident that when you do run into problems you will have a reliable support team. We work collaboratively and will listen to you to understand the needs of your practice to make sure that all product enhancements can help you get the best return on your investment – and build your best practice.

Simple migration. Project managers from GE Healthcare will work with your team to ensure that your practice is prepared and informed throughout the migration process. From the initial planning and assessment phases to the 'go live,' GE Healthcare offers a single point of contact for your practice to work with throughout the process.

A trusted vendor. GE Healthcare has years of experience in healthcare and technology, and is a strategic partner you can count on to help your practice meet Meaningful Use, HIPAA 5010, ICD-10, Accountable Care, and any other new challenges the future may hold.

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