

5 common EHR Myths that hold you back

A White Paper by CureMD

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Introduction

The emergence, adoption, implementation and usage of [Electronic Health Records \(EHRs\)](#) have taken the Healthcare industry by storm. Many physicians have jumped on the EHR bandwagon to fulfill their clinical, administrative and financial needs in a bid to maximize revenue, improve care quality and optimize their practice output.

On the contrary, there are still many physicians who are reluctant to move on from their age-old traditions. The hesitation to embrace Cloud-based EHR technology in part is due to an abundance of myths and misinformation that lead to errors along the adoption and implementation path and drive runaway costs for EHR projects.

With thousands and even millions of dollars at stake for providers, we debunk 5 common myths that may doom your EHR efforts.

- EHRs are just another IT trend that will pass
- All EHRs are identical
- EHRs are the solution to all problems
- EHR technology interferes with the doctor-patient relationship
- EHRs are very expensive

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1.

EHRs are just another IT trend that will pass

Many physicians are hesitant to jump on the EHR bandwagon because they believe that like many other phases in the IT industry, this is also a phase that will surely pass along soon enough. Wrong!

There has never been an IT project that the government has backed so vehemently. Under the umbrella of Obamacare, the EHR revolution we are witnessing today is testament to the fact that EHRs are here to stay. Plus the widespread adoption of functioning EHRs shows that physicians are actually witnessing productivity and efficiency derived from such technology.

Concepts such as interoperability and Health Information Exchange would not be possible without [Cloud technology](#) which allows for the seamless exchange of information between multiple devices and organizations.

The difference between a trend that is just passing along and a trend that is here to stay is pretty simple. Trends that pass along die down after the initial hype. These trends are common and experts are quick to see the loopholes in them. On the other hand, a trend that lasts longer is instantly recognized as a concept that would revolutionize the whole industry. That trend is cognitive, implementable and experts recognize the vast benefits it can provide.

2.

All EHRs are identical

It is an established fact that physicians are not experts at using Information Technology. We can also deduce that physicians are not tech-savvy and don't know a lot about computer programs, software, coding processes and the integration of data on technological platforms. That is what IT personnel do, right? The same way a physician knows best how to deal with patients, IT personnel are aware of the best practices to utilize technology for the betterment of any industry. Conclusively, how can a person, who doesn't know much about an industry or the utilization of its tools (software), say that every software has similar output ?

Also, people with basic business sense can also conclude that burgeoning competition in any industry leads to a diversification of the products being sold by the entities that form the overall competition. In the healthcare industry, the advent of [Electronic Health Records](#) has led to a huge influx of vendors in the market, all offering different types of EHRs.

Every company brings a certain edge, a certain differentiation in its product line that attracts physicians to their products. While it may be true that EHRs have the same overall objectives, it is not true that these software work the same way. Each of these EHRs differ in design, interface, navigation and features and most of them offer customization according to the physician's specialty and needs.

Some EHRs are built for larger practices, while others are built for medium or small scale practices. Some EHRs have the capability to incorporate different specialties, while others are specialty-specific, meaning that they are built to handle certain specialties such as dermatology, oncology or podiatry.

There are some EHRs that pack features such as pre-designed templates, latest ICD/CPT codes, integrated patient portals, the ability to store scanned images and integrated medical billing services while other EHRs only contain basic features such as recording patient health information.

3.

EHRs are the solution to every problem

There are some physicians who believe that the usage of EHRs will solve all of their practice-related problems. An EHR is supposed to streamline clinical, administrative and financial workflows for a physician. Yes, it 'helps' in solving major problems at the practice related to clinical decision making, administrative execution of all clerical tasks and optimizing financial operations. However, it is not something that is going to identify each and every problem for the physician and solve them.

Like other software, someone will need to operate that technology. Then, based on certain features, the software will enable them to rectify the problems and issues they have pinpointed. It is crucial to note that EHRs are a tool for physicians, nurses, staff and healthcare organizations to optimize efficiencies, which can lead to better decision making, better problem solving, higher profits, satisfied patients and better care quality.

4.

EHR technology interferes with the doctor-patient relationship

With the dawn of revolutionary healthcare technology, an era of patient engagement is being witnessed. That being said, those who oppose health IT have portrayed EHRs as a tool that disconnects doctors from patients, and undermines one of the most crucial factors in providing quality care – the traditional doctor-patient relationship.

Fact is, EHRs streamline a doctor's before the patient even arrives at the doctor's office. The doctor knows the patient's medical history, current and past prescriptions, allergies, as well as insurance eligibility through modern technology. Since the doctor is already aware of this information, he does not need to waste time by asking the patients their whole medical history. Experts have even suggested that such efficiencies have shown to increase the trust between a doctor and his patients. A Florida-based physician stated that through the usage of EHRs, "Patients have come to expect more thorough documentation and more precise ways to improve their own health."

Through EHRs, physicians can pull up information about diabetes and show the patient his/her medical information on the screen and discuss a plan of action, with just a few clicks. You can generate diet plans based on age, weight, and health. EHRs help promote practical efficiencies that never existed before.

5.

EHRs are very expensive

Like any other technology that we invest in, it is foolish to think that the cost will be greater than the benefits derived from using that technology in the short-run. Similarly, EHRs may also seem like an expensive investment, but they save physicians money on various fronts via eliminating paper, the resources needed to record paper-charts and maintain them, irrelevant and costly medication, and lessen the time taken in delivering quality care.

It is pertinent to mention that while the initial investment may seem a little too much for many, the advantages of having an EHR at any practice justify the need to make that initial investment. EHRs have the same perks for physicians that automation systems have for businessmen. Increased efficiency, better output, enhanced accuracy, lesser usage of time and higher profits are just a few of the benefits these solutions offer.

With EHRs, physicians are able to access, store, retrieve and exchange data with other systems, devices and organizations like never before. With just a couple of clicks on the screen, a physician can send a data sample to the laboratory for evaluation. Without an EHR, all of this would have to be done manually, including the process of physically sending the sample report to the laboratory through a courier, adding the cost of transportation, and waiting for the laboratory to send the analysis back to the physician, drastically increasing the time taken.

The introduction of Cloud technology has made EHRs extremely affordable and interoperable with many leading vendors providing robust Cloud-based software.

These EHR myths provide substantial reasons why physicians fail to see the bright side of modern technology. With such myths dispelled, physicians can hope to change their approach for providing better care.

About CureMD

CureMD is the leading provider of [Cloud-based EHR](#), [Practice Management](#) and [Medical Billing Services](#) to transform the administrative and clinical operations of healthcare organizations of all sizes. Our award winning solutions simplify decision making, streamline operations and ensure compliance with industry standards and best practices – ultimately saving time and effort to maximize value and returns.

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