For More Information

Articles

The February 2005 issue of Family Practice Management is devoted to the use of electronic health records in primary-care practices. The articles cover a range of issues such as EHR purchasing, going "paperless," a user satisfaction survey and selection of an EHR system. The issue is available on-line at *www.aafp.org/fpm/20050200/contents.html*.

The September/October 2005 issue of Health Affairs is devoted to health information technology. The articles cover a range of topics, from the implications to the healthcare system of broad use of health information technology to studies of implementation in small medical practices. The table of contents for this issue is available on-line at *http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/vol24/issue5*.

A Small Practice Juggles EHR's High Costs and Big Payoffs, Janet Colwell, ACP Observer, September 2005. Available on-line at *www.acponline.org/journals/news/sep05/ehr.htm*.

Study Finds Doctors with EHRs Have More Complete Patient Information, M.L. Baker, E-Week, Ziff-Davis Internet, Feb. 3, 2005. Available on-line at *www.eweek.com/article2/0,1759, 1761511,00.asp*.

The Value of Health Care Information Exchange and Interoperability, Jan Walker, Eric Pan, Douglas Johnston, Julia Adler-Milstein, David W. Bates and Blackford Middleton, Health Affairs, Jan. 19, 2005. Available on-line at *http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/content/full/hlthaff.w5.10/DC1*.

Web Resources

The American Academy of Family Physicians' Center for Health Information Technology Website (*www.centerforhit.org*) features informational resources such as tutorials on hardware, network-

ing and electronic health records. The site also includes interactive tools, product reviews and links to relevant articles from the AAFP journal, Family Practice Management.

The eHealth Initiative publishes a template to help small and medium-sized medical practices determine bottom-line prices on EHR implementation plans. The Master Quotation Guide has sections to figure costs for the actual vendor software, plus interfaces, third-party software, conversion from paper or earlier electronic systems, implementation services, training, data backup and recovery plans and support and maintenance contracts. It has space for side-by-side comparisons of various purchase and leasing options and payment terms. For more information, log on to *http://ccbh.ehealthinitiative.org/communities/community.aspx? Section=97&Category=359&Document=643*.

Dr. Kurt Voelker's EMR Update (*www.emrupdate.com*) is a site started by a Florida internist and pulmonologist could not find objective information on electronic medical records system when he was researching a system for his medical practice. So he launched this site to provide a forum for unbiased EMR information.

Connecting for Health (*www.connectingforhealth.org*) is a public-private initiative of the Markle Foundation that is designed to improve patient care by promoting the adoption of standards for electronic medical information. The Markle Foundation's other health activities include *www.KatrinaHealth.org*, which helps connect evacuees of Hurricane Katrina and their healthcare providers with detailed information about their pre-hurricane prescription medications and dosage information.

The Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) now has a primary-care category for its annual Nicholas E. Davies Awards of Excellence for implementation of electronic health records, and winning practices usually are happy to share their success stories. Log on to *www.himss.org/ASP/ daviesAward.asp* for more information. HIMSS also convenes the Microsoft Healthcare Users Group and has a committee on ambulatory EHRs (*www.himss.org/ASP/topics_ambulatorycare. asp*) and an ambulatory EHR selection tool (*www.solutions-toolkit.com/EMRtoolkit/ASP/default.asp*).