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HIPAA in a “Nutshell”

Guidelines for EMR, Paper Medical Records Compliance

By Michael Milne

There are two HIPAA rule requirements; privacy (2003) and security (2005). Both rules require:

- Identifying possible threats,
- Assessing specific vulnerabilities,
- Determining appropriate and reasonable safeguards and
- Implementing the necessary defense mechanisms and policies.

Using an EMR (electronic medical record) has no absolute right and wrongs in either computer equipment or software for HIPAA compliance. Usually there are four areas to examine:

- **Physical Security** — can your computers with patient data be stolen?
- **User Security** — can anybody log on to the patient database?
- **System Security** — what happens on a hard drive crash?
- **Network Security** — can unauthorized persons outside your facility access patient data?

Using paper medical records begs similar questions:

- **Physical Security** — how secure are the files from fire and theft?
- **User Security** — what access controls and logging is there?
- **System Security** — what happens in a fire or flood?
- **Storage Access** — are the files in a locked, secure area?

continued next issue

From the Editor

From triage to discharge, Emergency Departments have many challenges. The complex and critical nature of Emergency Medicine demands unique and comprehensive solutions.

Each issue will contain articles designed to raise awareness on various topics that affect and impact an Emergency Department. Topics will include “What’s New” in regulatory compliance, helpful tips on using CMR® and other educational pieces that will hopefully help you in your day-to-day work.

Who We Are

CMR, the Complete Medical Record, is designed for Emergency Departments by Emergency physicians and nurses.

User-friendly, CMR helps to create a health care culture that is both connected and comprehensive.

Best of Breed vs. Enterprise

CMR Staff

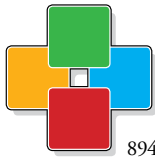
Over recent years there has been a battle between “best of breed” and the enterprise system. Which is better and most cost effective? Beware of the promise of a “one system fits all” solution. Many of the enterprise systems expect the ED to chart and function like the rest of the hospital and this is just not the case. In fact, The Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology (CCHIT) also recognizes this. That’s why they have developed new 2008 certification requirements; they are also developing a new separate and distinct domain for the Emergency Department.

One Size Fits All

Hospital enterprise systems promote an ED module that does not fit the ED. These modules require the hospital’s own staff to “build” the ED forms. Not only is this approach work intensive to create and maintain, but also the resulting product is static and limited in its use. They can not offer ease of flow or even capture data points for billing and reporting.

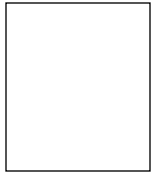
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TIP OF THE MONTH Each hospital should have a data backup and recovery plan in place to protect your patient’s electronic medical records. Your policy should take in to account server crashes as well as natural disasters. Planning ahead ensures complete recovery of your collective patient data.



CMR Today

8940 Bluebonnet Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70810



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CMR vs. One Size Fits All

Ok, so we're slightly biased. Judge for yourself. Here is why we think CMR is the only choice for your Emergency Department.

IMPROVED WORKFLOW

CMR's whiteboard helps the coordinators track patient flow, patient areas and turn around times. The whiteboard can be monitored from all areas of the ED, giving the staff real-time information about their patients.

EASE OF USE

The patient chart was designed by ED clinicians for ED clinicians. It mirrors the traditional patient chart look and feel. No having to stumble your way around wondering where to put that critical documentation.

PROMPT, ERROR-FREE COMMUNICATION

The whiteboard/chart is clear and concise. It reduces the risk of medication errors due to legibility, and uses a layout familiar to most EDs.

IMPROVED REIMBURSEMENT, FEWER DENIALS

When it's easier to document, more documentation is done. CMR ensures that most charting requirements are met which leads to improved reimbursements and fewer denials.

BETTER OUTCOMES DATA AND REPORTING

Patient care is tracked and reportable. Most one-size-fits-all systems don't provide report capabilities for statistics such as; length of stay, core measures, and staff productivity.

EFFECTIVE REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

CMR's business rules ensure the documentation meets regulatory compliance for JCAHO, CMS, etc. As the regulations change so will CMR.

RESPONSIVENESS TO THE CUSTOMER

CMR offers 24/7 help from IT as well as clinicians. Additionally, we can often have someone there on site within 24 hours of your call when necessary. CMR is always there.

CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENTS

The CMR staff includes ED Physicians and Nurses with ongoing experience in today's EDs. They understand your needs and ensure these needs are met with each new release of CMR. See our list of Current Developments.

We hope you agree. CMR is the best solution. CMR continually strives to provide the best ED solution with full integration capability. We believe that ultimately, integrated independent systems will represent the best of both worlds. CMR will remain focused on being the best ED Information System while being fully committed and ready to interface or integrate with any other system when desired.

CMR contact information:

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www.CMRedis.com

Current Developments at CMR

CORE MEASURES

- Pneumonia HQM
- Pediatric Asthma HQM
- AMI HQM

CRITICAL CARE FORM

Evoked on Physician Validation of a Level five chart.

PRO FEE REPORT

Pulls all pertinent information from the chart to enable streamlined physician coding and billing.

FALL RISK ASSESSMENT

Developed to accommodate for JCAHO patient safety goal 9. CMR has implemented the MORSE fall scale into our existing record.

SMOKING CESSATION EDUCATION

Added to nursing notes. Reports will be able to pull this information as well as auto-populate the Core Measures.

Upcoming Conferences

Come Visit Us!

Louisiana ENA (Booth # 16)

New Orleans, LA - August 22

ENA Annual Conference (Booth # 1046)

Minneapolis, MN - Sept 25-27

LRHA Annual Conference

Lafayette, LA - Oct 20-21

ACEP Scientific Assembly (Booth # 1333)

Chicago, IL - Oct 27-30

isEDIS Conference

San Diego, CA - December 7-11