



Cal-Med

focus

Fact or Fiction of EMR Solutions

When it comes to implementing an EMR system it can be hard to choose the right solution for you with all of the misinformation floating around out there. Are these myths holding you back? Here are the top three myths that we hear most often and the facts.

FICTION: EMRs ruin the interaction between patients and doctors.

FACT: EMRs can enhance the interaction between patients and doctors. EMRs give doctors the ability to have all their patients information at their fingertips giving them more time to interact with their patients. Studies, such as the 2010 Government Accountability Office Report, finds that bedside manner has actually improved with the use of an EMR solution.

FICTION: Switching to an EMR solution causes mass downtime and disrupts workflow.

FACT: When switching to an EMR solution, with the proper amount of training and support minimal downtime can be experienced.

FICTION: EMRs are too expensive!

FACT: EMR solutions can be costly, with larger vendors charging over a \$100,000 for small practices (not including hardware and IT costs). With advances in technology, EMR solutions are becoming more accessible for the small practice. Also government stimulus are helping cut the cost of implementing an EMR solution.

Are you confused if something you have heard is fact or fiction? If so, email us at support@cal-med.com.

EMR Spotlight:

Vascular and Interventional Specialists of Orange County (VISOC)

Vascular and Interventional Specialist of Orange County (VISOC), located at 1140 La Veta Ave., Suite 850 in Orange, has been using Cal-Med's Practice Expert System for the last 20 years. They began using the Practice Expert EMR System in March 2010. VISOC is a renowned multidisciplinary team of doctors in Southern California consisting of three vascular surgeons and three interventional radiologists. Dr. Jeffrey Ballard, M.D. is one of the principle providers and is very savvy and knowledgeable in EMR systems and workflow. We have utilized his expertise in the area of vascular medicine and have also employed his great suggestions on workflow in our EMR package making it one the best on the market for Vascular specialists. Cal-Med is pleased to have VISOC as a continued and happy client. Please visit their website www.visoc.org for more information.

Focus on Information

Each month our Cal-Med team sits down and decides what to feature in the current month's newsletter. As you may be able to tell, we have started a couple of ongoing segments: EMR Spotlight and a Team Member/New Hire profile. We hope that these two features give you a sense of who Cal-Med is and how our clients are using our solutions. We are always looking for information that you, our client, would find useful. As you may also have noticed, or read in a previous Cal-Med Focus, our website was completely revamped and is undergoing the addition of many more features that we will be rolling out in the coming months. Is there a topic you would like covered in Cal-Med Focus? Is there a feature you would like to see on our website? Let us know by e-mailing khawley@cal-med.com.

Technology is Your Friend

We often talk about the importance of backups, however we rarely touch on the fact that network security is crucial as well. Every office that has computers connected to the internet should be running a firewall and have a trusted IT person managing that firewall. A properly configured and managed hardware firewall provides security that protects your network from hackers and some malware that can destroy your data. A few manufacturers include SonicWall, Linksys, Netgear and D-Link. When it comes to a hardware firewall, it is highly recommended that you avoid the budget model and purchase one geared towards business. A firewall can't completely protect a network on it's own, anti-malware software among correctly set permissions are also required, but the firewall is your first line of defense from the bad guys on the outside.

Team Member ~ Amareesh Basanapalli



Mr. Basanapalli is our Programming Manager. He specializes in C#.NET, SQL Server, WPF, ASP.NET and the list goes on and on. After receiving his Bachelors at VTU, India he decided that he wanted to further his education. He moved to California to attain his Masters from California State University, Long Beach.

Mr. Basanapalli has personally programmed and implemented many of the features in the Practice Expert EMR system as well as overseen and acted as project manager on many more.

Mr. Basanapalli earned a Bachelor of Engineering in Computer Science at VTU, India and his Master of Science in Computer Science from Cal State University, Long Beach.

The Importance of Having a Verified Backup

Do you have a verified SQL backup? In the case of a server crash, you can always download the Practice Expert program and have it re-installed on your server. However what you can't just download is all of your data. If you were to lose your data, which is stored in a SQL database, it would be very expensive just to try and retrieve it through a third party company. If you are not sure whether or not you have a verified static SQL backup, please contact the person in charge of your server. **If you are on our ASP model, you do not have to worry about backups as we handle them for you.**

