

The Tele Comm Times

1-800-689-8100 - www.telecommcomputersystems.com

DOCUMENTED FACTS ABOUT EMR/EHR

There has been a lot of misinformation circulating about EMR/EHR systems. We have seen many half-truths and falsehoods about EHR entrap Physicians in complex, expensive, and difficult to use systems. At Tele Comm, we believe that the motivation for using an EHR system should be driven by improving patient care and increasing office efficiency, and not by high pressure salespersons, uncertain potential Stimulus payments, or overbearing hospital or IPA requirements. We believe each Physician needs to make their own decisions on whether or not to use an EHR, and each Physician should choose an EHR that is financially and technologically correct for their practice. The following items are documented by a links to a government or regulatory agency that supports the stated facts.

ARE EMR AND EHR THE SAME? No. For purposes of discussion, the remainder of this document will use the EHR acronym.

http://www.himssanalytics.org/docs/WP_EMR_EHR.pdf

ARE MOST PHYSICIANS USING AN EHR? No. As of December 2010, approximately 10% of physicians are using a fully functional EHR, while approximately 50% are using "any system".

<http://www.himss.org/content/files/359-3%20-%20EMR-EHR%20Systems%20of%20Office-based%20US%20Physicians.pdf>

IS EHR SOFTWARE REQUIRED TO PERFORM E-PRESCRIBING? No. E-prescribing can be performed independent of an EHR. Companies such as Dr First and Quest offer low cost e-prescribing solutions, and there can be incentives:

<http://www.drfirst.com/>

http://www.questdiagnostics.com/hcp/connect/e_prescribing.html

<https://www.cms.gov/ERxIncentive/>

[downloads/2011eRxIncentiveProgramUpdatefor2012PaymentAdjustment05-09-11.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/ERxIncentiveProgramUpdatefor2012PaymentAdjustment05-09-11.pdf)

ARE PHYSICIANS REQUIRED TO HAVE AN EHR? No. Although there may be benefits to implementing an EHR, physicians are not required to use an EHR. Physicians who do implement an EHR may qualify to receive Stimulus payments, and Physicians who do not implement an EHR may receive Medicare reimbursement reductions:

<http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/#BOOKMARK1>

Proof that EHR is not mandatory is by virtue of the fact that Medicare states that they may reduce Medicare reimbursement on doctors that have not implemented an EHR by 2015. If the EHR was mandatory, they would not be stating these reimbursement reduction policies. As you can see from the following document on the CMS website, no mention is made of mandatory EHR through 2021:

<http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/Downloads/EHRIncentProgtimeline508V1.pdf>

The stimulus payment for implementation of EHR is listed in the Congressional Bill H.R.1:

<http://telecommcomputersystems.com/files/HR1.pdf>

in Section 4101:

http://telecommcomputersystems.com/files/HR1_4101.pdf

The following website advises that these incentive payments may be rescinded:

<http://blog.himss.org/2011/01/31/h-r-408-the-spending-reduction-act-of-2011-introduced-in-the-house-of-representatives/>

by the potential passing of H.R.408:

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h112-408>

and/or by the potential passing of H.R.556:

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h112-556>

Upgrades Completed—More on the Way

On April 18, 2011 Tele Comm completed the upgrade of our server room infrastructure, our Internet service, and our telephone service. These upgrades were undertaken to eliminate telephone busy signals and slow Internet support connections. Our next series of changes will methodically upgrade all of our servers over a period of several month, ending on December 31, 2011.

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Phishing: Don't Get Hooked

Phishing scams are spam messages sent by criminals trying to steal your personal information. As time goes on, phishing scams continue to evolve and are no longer poorly written emails pretending to be from a company asking for your personal information. Criminals are now targeting messages to specific groups of people, including Physicians, and are building very legitimate looking websites. In addition to traditional emails, they are also sending phishing scams through social media sites, text messages and web pop-ups. While their methods may be changing, the tips for protecting yourself have largely remained the same. Below, are a few tips that may help protect your personal information from phishing scams:

- Do not provide sensitive information such as usernames, passwords, bank account/credit card numbers, etc. via email, pop-ups, or text messages. Legitimate companies rarely ask for this type of information through unsecured means.
- Verify the legitimacy of the message. If you receive a message asking for sensitive information, contact the company directly using a telephone from a reliable source (and not from the message) to verify if it is real.
- Avoid clicking on links within suspicious messages. Phishing scams will often direct you to a fraudulent webpage to enter sensitive information.
- Download the latest web browser. The latest versions of Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome, and Safari include security features that help you identify and avoid fraudulent websites.
- Avoid downloading attachments. Attachments may contain malicious programs used to steal your sensitive information. So avoid clicking on or downloading unexpected attachments from un-trusted sources.
- Ensure your computer is protected. Since phishing scams may also attempt to install malicious programs on your computer, be sure it is protected with at least antivirus, anti-spam, and firewall programs. It is important to keep these programs are up-to-date.
- Report the phishing scam. If you receive an email scam, report it to the company that is being spoofed as well as the Federal Trade Commission at spam@uce.gov.
- AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, IF SOMETHING LOOKS FISHY, CALL TELE COMM BEFORE CLICKING ON ANYTHING. We may be able to back you out of a trap and save you time and money by stopping the virus from getting on your computer.

The Adventures of Scary Gary, the EMR Salesman

The ever persistent, ever annoying, ever over-stating, and ever under-estimating EMR salesman, Scary Gary is out there to get you. Beware!

Hello Doctor...if you don't buy this EHR thingie, you will not be able to e-prescribe...and your reimbursement will be cut on June 30...and your you need to buy it now before it is too late!



Gary, there you go again with your half truths. Why can't you sell your EHR based on it's merits, instead of using your scare tactics? I, the TCU Mascot of truth, am here to set the facts straight about e-prescribing.



Here are the facts, Doctor. Any Physician can e-prescribe without purchasing expensive EHR software. It's simple. Just call Tele Comm to find out how. Don't be fooled by silly promises from Scary Gary. He will say anything, no matter how misleading, to pitch his EHR.

