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Are there differences between EMR and EHR? Do you know what the values of EMRs and EHRs are? With many differences between EMR and EHR and their intrinsic qualities, the term EMR means electronic medical records and EHR means electronic health records. As both are valuable in their own way, EMRs are used for diagnosis and treatment by clinicians. EHRs cover a lot more territory and relates to the health and condition of the body. The electronic medical record or EMR is to do with the health-related information of an individual which is garnered, created and managed with advice sought from one organization by licensed staff and clinicians who are the medical professionals diagnosing and treating a person. The electronic health record is the total conclusion of health-related information garnered from several health organizations and is managed by professional medical personnel taking care or treating an individual.

Being a digital version of the paper charts in a doctor or physician's office, electronic medical records or EMRs identify the patients who are due for check ups or preventive screenings. EMRs track data over a period of time, improve and monitor the quality of care managed by a practice and checks particular parameters of patients like vaccinations or blood pressure readings. As compared to the EHR, an EMR stays mostly within the practice and cannot be easily acquired by any other organization. EHRs work on a broader spectrum and are gathered from various sources such as specialists, laboratories and other healthcare providers which provide information from all the medical professionals who are involved with the patient's care. The National Alliance for Health Information Technology stated that EHR data "can be created, managed, and consulted by authorized clinicians and staff across more than one healthcare organization."

Discover the Benefits of EHRs

Designed as medical records that can be accessed by professionals who are involved in the diagnosis and treatment of a patient, EHRs travel with the patient to the physician, specialist, hospital, the nursing home, even the next state and sometimes across the nation or country. HIMSS Analytics stated that, "The EHR represents the ability to easily share medical information among stakeholders and to have a patient's information follow him or her through the various modalities of care engaged by that individual." As health care is a team effort, EHRs hold the essence of efficient and effective communication with several parties involved in interactive information shared in a secure manner. With even the individual having access to his/her own records, EHRs have multiple benefits that go towards patient-centric care and the latest information in a functional EHR.

The primary care provider offers information about the patient's life-threatening allergy to the emergency department clinician so that prompt and accurate care can be given to save a life. As an EHR can be accessed by the patient, he/she can log in to check their laboratory results and encourage themselves to take medications on time and improve their quality of life. With the latest health information on lab tests, a specialist can decide immediately if any more tests need to be done or not. The clinician's notes on the patient's stay at the hospital can help in the follow up care and discharge instructions that culminates in a seamless move for the patient from one healthcare module to another.

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