

harvey family practice:

**bottom line:
from implementation to
attestation in one year...
with minimal
practice disruption**



quick view:

measurable impact



- *Implementation to attestation in one year*
- *Stimulus funds will offset cost of transition to EHR*
- *No decrease in patients seen throughout implementation*
- *From completely paper to 95 percent paperless in first year*

about the practice

Decatur, Indiana, in the northeast corner of the state is home to Adams County's only hospital. For eighty years, the hospital and area physicians have provided quality care to the town's nearly 10,000 residents. Dr. Keith Harvey practices family medicine in Decatur, supported by a nurse practitioner. When the previous practice owner retired, Dr. Harvey was left with 35 years of patient charts to store and manage. He made the decision to transition to electronic medical records in fall 2011.

"do it now, or don't do it at all"

At 46, Dr. Harvey is a member of the generation too tenured to have grown up using EHR, and too far out from retiring to ignore the incentives (and penalties) associated with going electronic. Rather than put off the inevitable, he decided to make the switch from paper charts to WebChart while meaningful use incentives would help fund the transition. However, he embarked on his journey with trepidation...

"Honestly, I was kind of reluctant about transitioning to an EHR, but it made sense to do it now while the meaningful use incentives were still available. I had two primary concerns: how would this affect my workflow seeing and taking care of patients, and how would it impact the business workflow of billing and getting paid. I was also concerned about the stability of so many EHR vendors. I didn't want to get an EHR from a company who would go belly up in two years and I'd have to start over.

"I found WebChart and was immediately reassured by the fact that it could integrate with our existing practice management system. Plus I could still dictate my notes and wouldn't be limited by one of



the point-and-click systems. WebChart was a very flexible system and we could go step-by-step with our implementation, which was perfect for me.

a planned approach to going paperless

“With 35 years of paper charts in our practice, we made the decision that we were not going to scan every piece of information into our new electronic charts. We knew the paper charts would be there for reference if we needed them, so we started by creating electronic charts as we saw patients. Nurses would enter the vitals electronically, and we documented the encounter in WebChart. From that day forward, anything new that came into the chart was created or converted to electronic format.

“Our WebChart system has fully integrated document management and it works well. We’re able to scan in relevant information from the paper chart and easily add it to the electronic chart.

“We also have a direct interface with our practice management system. We can share information between the systems, and with outside providers. We ePrescribe medications, and interface with our local hospital lab.

from implementation to attestation? simple!

“One of the most valuable parts of WebChart for our practice is meaningful use. When we sat down to review the criteria with our implementer, we realized that about 95 percent of what we needed to do was already part of our workflow. We just needed to make sure we were capturing our compliance.

“We use the meaningful use tracker to review how we’re doing as a whole — looking back to see where we’re doing well and where we might need some additional focus. Really, it has made meaningful use simple. I’m confident we will successfully attest by the end of our first year using WebChart, and barring something unforeseen, we should be able to pass year after year going forward.



do it your way

"Now that we've made the transition and cleared that hurdle, I can honestly say this was easier than I imagined it would be. I think the fact that you can go at your own pace and configure WebChart for both your practice and your individual users is one of the most valuable aspects of the system."

"In just a year's time, we've gone from completely paper to 95 percent electronic, without decreasing the number of patients we've seen. Many of my staff are either my age or older, and most of us would say this has been easier than what we thought."

"For someone who was fearful at the beginning, I can say we're very glad that we've done it."



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