

Dr. Daniel Stein Saves More Than One Hour a Day by Using the Intelligent EHR System, EMA™



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— DANIEL T. STEIN, MD

KEY BENEFITS

Orthopedic-specific electronic health records (EHR) system

Increased efficiency saves time daily

Automatic coding instills confidence in billing

Structured data collection achieves Meaningful Use

BACKGROUND

Leadership at Coastline Orthopedic Associates, located in Fountain Valley, Calif., had been contemplating switching from paper charts to an EHR system for years. With 11 providers and over 35 office staff members, chart storage was becoming an issue. In addition, they wanted to avoid penalties enforced by upcoming government requirements, so they began researching systems.

Dr. Daniel Stein, an orthopedic surgeon with the group, explains, “We wanted a system that was more accurate than what we had been using and required less handwriting. At times, notes on paper can be unrecognizable, not to mention inconvenient when it comes to storing so many charts. Years ago, I actually created a template of my own in an Apple word processing program that I used on my laptop, but I was spending too much time documenting at the end of the day. Neither solution was working.”

For about one year, Dr. Stein and his team evaluated EHR systems in earnest only to be left unconvinced that any would be the right fit for their practice. “All the systems we had researched were similar to each other in that they were very cumbersome, required a lot of typing and the technology was outdated. I had envisioned a system that was simple to use and functioned on a tablet,” Dr. Stein said.

“A fellow dermatology colleague recommended Modernizing Medicine’s EHR system, EMA. I went to the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons meeting and saw demos of a few different systems, including EMA. Once I found out CPT and ICD-10 codes were generated automatically by EMA, I immediately knew I had found the right system,” he said. “Another important aspect in making our decision was that other systems we had reviewed required a huge investment of capital plus maintenance and upgrade fees. EMA made a lot of sense in that it was inexpensive and didn’t require a lot of hardware purchases since it’s hosted in the cloud. The vision I had for an EHR system is very similar to what EMA represents.”

“Once we made the decision, we prepared by taking online courses provided by Modernizing Medicine and then had two trainers come to our office. Immediately after training, we implemented EMA in phases by seeing a few patients at a time. Within four months of using the system, we were paperless.”

ORTHOPEDIC-SPECIFIC

Dr. Stein finds it beneficial that EMA was developed and continues to be updated by real orthopedic surgeons. The medical knowledge specific to his specialty of orthopedics is built into the system, allowing him to touch and tap his way quickly through an exam.

“The fact that there are orthopedic surgeons coding their experience into the program as opposed to technical engineers who have never been in an orthopedic office is invaluable. Not only is the intuitive interface convenient, I trust that the diagnoses and treatment options I use are in EMA. Even better is that the system recognizes and adapts to my style of practice,” he explains. “Also, I know that Modernizing Medicine is constantly updating the software so I don’t have to worry about maintaining it regularly. Their team handles the updates automatically for us.”

SAVING TIME AND INCREASING EFFICIENCY

The convenience of the cloud-based, native iPad application enables Dr. Stein to save time throughout his day while still providing quality patient care. “There is no question that EMA saves me time. I can see twenty new patients and be done one hour to an hour and a half earlier than in the past. If I consider my time saved, that equals to saving over \$125,000 per year,” said Dr. Stein.

“Before EMA, I would enter a room to see a patient, handwrite my notes and populate them into my homemade template later. Now as I see a patient, I’m able to document my notes in real time so when I leave the exam room, my notes are complete and I’m ready for the next patient. Productivity has definitely increased in the sense that I can get out of office sooner because I’m more efficient throughout my day.”

BETTER PATIENT CARE

“Another important aspect of EMA is that it’s cloud-based, which allows the staff access to patient information from almost anywhere and enables us to remain accessible while out of the office,” Dr. Stein explains. “I use PocketEMA™ on my iPhone so I’m able to access patient information in real-time while I’m in the operating room. With EMA, we are able to better answer medical questions regarding our patients while we are offsite. “

“Patients comment on how high-tech we are, and I try to maximize their involvement in their care. I use the images loaded in EMA for choosing touch sites on the Interactive Anatomical Atlas™. I’m also able to attach X-ray and MRI results which I share occasionally with my patients,” he said. “I can look up their doctor’s name or pharmacy right on the iPad in front of them and they’re really impressed.”

GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS MADE EASY

EMA collects and stores patient data and acts as a powerful tool for helping to meet approaching government mandates. “The automation of the structured data in EMA assisted us in attesting for Stage Two Meaningful Use,” said Dr. Stein. “EMA outlined all of the steps we needed to follow and essentially did most of the work for us. We were able to focus on being physicians while EMA handled helping to attest for us.”

EMA also comes with a built-in ICD-10 coding solution that generates billing codes for effortless billing. “The CPT and ICD-10 calculation impressed me the most. EMA has actually given me much better knowledge on how the billing process works and this has been a very helpful feature,” he said. “We took a course on ICD-10 before choosing EMA. We learned that most experts believe you should save up to three to six months of income because of the disaster ICD-10 would bring. We were told the change to ICD-10 would negatively impact our billing and we would not get paid. In addition, the specter of the amount data and knowledge needed to comprehend the more than 140,000 codes seemed like a huge task. EMA produces the codes like a little genius, and that is a huge weight off our shoulders, both mentally and financially.”

THE FUTURE WITH MODMED ORTHOPEDICS™

“We are very happy and we will continue to use EMA for many years to come. It’s been a very smooth transition, and EMA has made it easy for us to switch from paper. Whenever I talk to anybody regarding EHR systems, my excitement for EMA shows.”

To learn more about the products Dr. Stein discussed, please request a demo at modmed.com or call 561.235.7503

