

Central Dermatology Center Saves Time after Switching Their EMR System to the Specialty-Specific EMA Dermatology™



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David Todd DeVries, MD

Key Benefits of EMA Dermatology:

- Dermatology-specific electronic medical records (EMR) system
- Increased efficiency through accurate documentation
- Decrease in errors saves time daily
- Automated data collection simplifies Meaningful Use attestation

Background

Central Dermatology Center, located in Chapel Hill, N.C., made the challenging decision to switch EMR system vendors. With 10 providers and additional office staff, the choice to change systems was difficult to undertake.

Dr. Todd DeVries, a dermatologist at the practice, explains, “Our previous EMR system involved software that we purchased for a large lump sum of money with ongoing additional costs associated with adding licenses for new users and continuing support. Such an investment made the failure of the software particularly difficult to accept, but we knew this solution was not working for the practice. The system had multiple elements that made its use cumbersome, complex and impractical. We found that we were spending extraordinary amounts of time building customized

office visit templates that were making us inefficient.”

“We participated in a demo of Modernizing Medicine’s Electronic Medical Assistant® (EMA™) and were instantly impressed with its ease of use, built-in, dermatology-specific content and thorough notes. Also, the cost for EMA Dermatology made switching a less-risky proposition, because it didn’t require a lot of capital and continuing fees. We implemented EMA Dermatology for our medical dermatology practice in July 2012 and have used it ever since.”

Dermatology-Specific Documentation

Practicing dermatologists who have been taught how to code developed EMA Dermatology, so the system understands and adapts to the way Dr. DeVries practices, which was an important feature to him. “Our previous EMR system was designed by computer software experts who understood nothing about dermatology and how best to chart a visit. EMA Dermatology was designed by dermatologists working with technology experts to create an intuitive EMR system for their peers,” he said.

EMA Dermatology collects data in real time and allows Dr. DeVries to touch and tap his way quickly through

an exam while generating a detailed note in minutes. “Now imagine a visit note in an EMR system in which each of the relevant elements are accessed by means of a tab system, such that you and your scribes are frequently moving back and forth among various tabs. It adds complexity and the possibility of missed information, plus considerable time documenting even simple office visits. Such was the situation with our first EMR system. It had to be customized by us to become functional, and we had to build the templates ourselves. In essence, we had to learn the language of the software,” he explained.

“The visit notes in EMA Dermatology are easy to digest in a single, scrollable webpage and in a context that is recognizable to physicians regardless of their specialty. Also e-prescribing with EMA Dermatology has demonstrated unequivocal success. It has proven timesaving capabilities and decreased the risk of errors. Generating notes, prescriptions and refills with EMA Dermatology is far simpler than my previous EMR system.”

Meaningful Use and PQRS Made Easy

The structured data in EMA Dermatology is gathered and stored in real time to make meeting the existing and potential increased government mandates on quality-of-care reporting an easy task. EMA Dermatology essentially takes the pain out of Meaningful Use and PQRS so Dr. DeVries can focus on his patients.

“Both our former and current vendors have made attestation for Meaningful Use possible; however, EMA Dermatology is far more straightforward. Modernizing Medicine has continually invested in educating practices on how to meet Meaningful Use through a series of webinars and safeguard services that guided us



EMA Dermatology™

through the attestation process. EMA Dermatology also automates reporting PQRS measures through a certified registry,” Dr. DeVries explained.

Superior Training and Ongoing Support

“Modernizing Medicine was well prepared in ensuring that the transition to EMA Dermatology was a success. Our front office staff, medical assistants and providers were quite wary of going through the process again in less than a year. Thankfully, Modernizing Medicine had an excellent training program for our staff and providers, and we engaged with their team over several weeks. Shortly after going live with EMA Dermatology, we paid to bring in one of their trainers to assess our utilization and recommend strategies for improvement. They have a great support site as well that is easily accessible.”

“I have found Modernizing Medicine to be responsive to specific issues addressed by the providers at Central Dermatology Center. In addition, Modernizing Medicine is continually updating the system, incorporating improvements and adequately publicizing the changes via email and webinars. We are very happy with our decision to implement EMA Dermatology and plan to use it for years to come.”

