

# ePrescribing Selection Considerations Checklist<sup>1</sup>

When evaluating an ePrescribing system, there are many elements to consider including cost, amount of effort and time to implement, and impact on practice work flow and productivity both initially and over time. This guide can be used to assist you in selecting a system that best fits your practice's needs.

## Patient Care Management

- Maintain and Manage Patient Record
- Manage Medication Administration
- Manage Patient Specific Medication List
- Order Medication

## Communication

- Access to Eligibility and Formulary
- Integration/Interface with Other Systems
- Pharmacy Communication
- Updates – Type and Frequency

## Decision Support

- Dispensed Drug History
- Drug Utilization Review
- Available Drug List
- Prior Authorization Messaging
- Drug to Drug Interactions
- Formulary Messaging

## Security, Standards and Support

- Reporting
- Disaster Recovery
- Training
- Security (HIPAA, Red Flags etc.)

There are two choices available when you consider an ePrescribing system: a stand-alone system or ePrescribing within an electronic health record (EHR). Your practice may be eligible for existing eRX incentives as well as future EHR incentives offered by Medicare or Medicaid.

**Important Note:** To comply with Medicare's ePrescribing guidelines and be eligible for the ePrescribing incentive program, the ePrescribing system used must have been designated by Medicare as a "Qualified" system. These standards can be found at:  
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/EPrescribing>

<sup>1</sup> Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. MedLearn Matters Articles. Available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/>. Accessed September 9, 2009.

# EHR Selection Considerations Checklist<sup>2</sup>

Implementing an electronic health record (EHR) system will affect every department in your office. A team approach may be the best place to start. Your EHR team can assist in all stages of implementation as well as identifying needed updates after the system has been deployed. This checklist may be helpful when evaluating an EHR system.

- What is the cost per physician license?
- Do you have any existing clients in the same specialty for reference?
- Does your system come pre-loaded with templates for our specialty?
- Is your company the developers of the software or is it re-branded from another vendor?
- Is your system client/server based or application service provider (ASP) based?
- How many clients does your company have?
- Does your system include practice management/ePrescribing/pharmacy software?
- What type of input modes are offered? (voice recognition, touch screen, light pen, mouse, keyboard, etc. )
- Does the system support remote access?
- Is your software CCHIT (Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology) certified and eligible for EHR Stimulus incentive?
- If not, why?
- Is your software HIPAA compliant?
- How often is the software updated?
- What are the fees for ongoing support after installation?
- Does your system have automated E/M coding advisor?
- Does your system allow document scanning?
- Does your system have software interfaces with internal and outside labs?
- Does your system have decision support tools?
- Does your system support a patient portal?

Each department in your practice may see increased efficiencies, which may include charge capture and coding enhancements, ePrescribing, results management, order and inventory management, decision support, implementation of practice guidelines, internal and/or external practice messaging, quality disease management, and patient portals.

EHR could assist your practice with participation in Medicare's ePrescribing and/or Physicians Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI). Guidelines for these programs can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/EPrescribing> and <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI>.

<sup>2</sup> Health Resources and Services Administration. EHR Selection Guidelines for Health Centers. Available at <ftp://ftp.hrsa.gov/healthit/ehrguidelines2008.doc>. Accessed September 9, 2009.