

EHR Talking Points for PA Discussion with Employers

EHR Design and Implementation

- EHRs should be designed with considerations for utilization, functionality, and efficiency by PAs and other health professionals. When appropriately designed and implemented for use by all relevant health professionals, EHRs can improve quality, increase patient safety, enhance operational efficiencies, provide cost savings, and increase patient satisfaction.
- PAs should be included as part of the team that provides input into the design, build, testing, implementation, and ongoing management of EHR systems. Without PA participation, key aspects of PA practice might be overlooked. These oversights are more difficult to correct once the system is fully designed and implemented as opposed to during the design phase.
- EHRs need to be adaptable to the specialty, scope of practice, and privileges of individual PAs. The type of EHR access granted should be able to be altered based on a PA's specialty.

Transparency

- The professional work of PAs should be transparent and able to be identified through data captured by EHRs. This data should include patient encounters, as well as measure contribution to care delivery for non-reimbursed services (e.g. computerized order entry, patient care documentation, diagnostic review and follow-up, and patient communications). Care provided by PAs during "incident to" or split (or shared) visit billing should be identified as work performed by the PA.

Quality and Safety

- Improving healthcare quality and ensuring patient safety are potential benefits of EHRs. To do this, there needs to be accurate attribution of patients to PAs. EHRs need to ensure that orders and test results are appropriately attributed to the ordering PA. PAs also need to be able to accurately assess their panel of patients for population health management, compliance with quality measures, and self-assessment.

Compliance

- EHRs should reflect the regulatory requirements of federal, state and facility policy to ensure the maximum utilization of PAs while avoiding potential non-compliance.
- EHRs should ensure the recognition of a PA's participation in patient care is not removed from the EHR when subsequent care is provided by another health professional or if an addendum is added to the medical record by another health professional.