

Linked IPAs and PPC Voices

The Newsletter for IPAs and PPC Professionals

The Linking Care and Technology Conference: An Ongoing Success

By: Jennifer McCormick

The physicians and practitioners at the Conference who use EMR have pushed the limits of the technology by using it as a medium for development of best practices. For example, Nurse Practitioners in the field have begun reporting and updating the patient's EMR to the physician and health care agency with hand-held devices in real time. The result has been prevention of adverse health outcomes and lowering the number of ER visits. Smart application of EMR like this one allow us as health care innovators to cut an otherwise unwieldy animal at the joints, improving communication, preventing acute crises, and lessening the paperwork so that we can focus on patient care.

I also learned more about the challenges of physician's offices in implementation of EMR. Several physicians shared their experiences in the implementation and what to expect when the staff is expected to implement an EMR system, and how they faced these challenges. I learned that not all EMRs are alike. Some, like OpenEMR, have been developed on a platform that allows the user to build or program new features into it (which is not



usually possible with proprietary software), so that it is possible to customize or to create new tools. For example, Dr. Charles Garcia's office has built a feature that allows the physician to send an image from the diagnostic equipment in the office

Need Labwork?

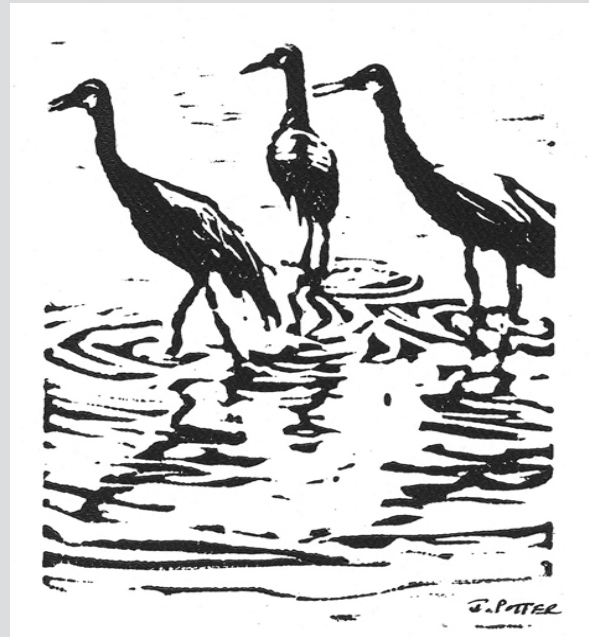
This is a reminder to all of our patients. Please be aware that Quest is no longer one of our providers. If you need any laboratory work please make sure you only go to a Clinical Pathology Laboratories (CPL) where you will be covered at 100% with no out of pocket fees. If your lab work is done inside the doctor's office it must also be serviced or sent to CPL for processing to ensure you don't receive a bill. Contact member services at 281-689-2605 or go on line to www.cpllab.com to find a location.



IPAs Conference

so that it embeds in the patient's electronic medical record. They have analyzed their office processes to identify data entry points, developed touch screen and stylus-ready forms as enhancements to OpenEMR. Additionally, Dr. Garcia interfaced OpenEMR with his current billing software so that there was no interruption in his office billing processes. This way, the office staff could use OpenEMR for the office tasks, and have the billing flow into OpenEMR through the billing interface with which the staff is already familiar.

According to Tony McCormick, Director of MI-Squared, what we are witnessing here is called an "inflection point" in the software community. It is an event or condition that changes the way we think and act—and it is the point at which we can introduce something entirely new. An inflection point needs pressure for change to be exerted from several directions simultaneously. Tony says, "currently there are three key points in health care where pressure for change is being exerted: 1) the federal mandate to improve care by collecting data, 2) the impending decline in the health status of America and 3) the high cost of health care. It's time to collaborate."



MI-Squared is providing physicians with the support and development tools they need to become innovators in their fields. The Conference was a fabulous forum where members of the IPA were introduced to the tools that have been developed and tested by our member physicians as solutions to the challenges they encountered in their medical practices.

Tony McCormick and Sam Bowen, MD will be presenting next at the POSSCON conference on Open Source medical software (OpenEMR) on March 23-25th, 2011 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center in Columbia, SC. Go to posscon.org for registration details.

The next Linking Care and Technology Conference on will be presented on April 30th, 2011 by LinkedIPAs and MI-Squared. Please register online at: <http://www.patientphysiciancoop.com>



From The Desk Of

Android Technology

By: Brad Gregg

Social Networking and New Technologies:

Over the past three years we have seen an explosion in the utilization of social networks and mobile media by small businesses. In a recent study, it's been reported that 75% of small businesses have a community page on a social networking site. With more than 500 million active users on Facebook alone, it's a market that cannot be ignored. In the mobile world, the Android platform has recently surpassed the Apple iPhone's platform (iOS). With Android holding a market share of 26% and iOS holding 25%, these two platforms alone have a firm grip on the mobile community.

Applications:

To date, Android currently has over 250,000 application available to download through it's exclusive Market. That is a growth of 861% in one year! The beauty of the Android platform is that it's open source, meaning the source

code is freely available, allowing programmers the opportunity to develop for the consumers without the "red tape" and high licensing fees. This allows for developers to create free applications that are readily available in a competitive consumer market currently effected by the state of the country's current economy.

What does this mean for PPC and it's members?

Currently I am working on developing new technologies for the mobile Android platform. On my agenda right now, I am working on an application installed directly to your phone with the ability to map your primary care physician based on your current location using Google Maps, call Member Services, or email us with any questions you may have. Another application being explored is the ability to check certain information regarding your membership (i.e. payment confirmation numbers, selected services) from your mobile device.

To Quote or Not to Quote:

The cardiologist's diet: If it tastes good spit it out. -

Unknown

By the time a man is wise enough to watch his step, he's too old to go anywhere. -

Billy Crystal

What would men be without women? Scarce, sir...mighty scarce. -

Mark Twain

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From the desk of continued:

HABLAMOS ESPANOL !

By: Crystal Chacon

Les quiero dar una noticia muy buena de todo el esfuerzo que se esta haciendo por todo el equipo del programa de La Cooperativa, usualmente referido por su nombre oficial Patient /Physician Cooperative.

Yo soy la representante bilingue del Servicios Al Cliente y es mi placer servir a una organizacion que realmente quiere lo mejor para todos los miembros que forman parte de esta Cooperativa. La Copertiva es formads por los doctores, clinicas,y la parte mas importante el paciente. Patient/Physician Cooperatives o La Cooperativa es una compania que quiere ayudar a nuestra comunidad; dandonos la oportunidad de recibir cuidado medico apropiado y a nuestro alcance. La Cooperativa no es un seguro ni azeguranza. Hay diferentes planes pero todos le ofrecen la tranquilidad y paz de saber que usted si tiene a quien acudir. Llamemos hoy al **281-689-2605** para mas informacion o visitenos en nuestra pagina de web www.patientphysiciancoop.com

Laugh Out Loud!

A new patient was quite upset when the doctor's nurse led him to a small, curtained cubicle and told him to undress. "But I only want the doctor to look at an ingrown toenail!" he protested.

"Our rule is that everyone must undress," replied the nurse as she handed him a very skimpy johnny.

"That's a stupid rule," grumbled the patient, "making me undress just to look at my toe."

"That's nothing," growled a voice from the next cubicle. "I just came to fix the phones!"