



# The AMDIS Consensus Recommendations to Industry for Electronic Health Record Documentation

Claus Hamann MD | Larry Ozeran MD

AMDIS Ojai

June 19, 2014

**FEATURE**

**Electronic Health Records**

# EHR Documentation Best Practices

Consensus Recommendations to Industry for Electronic  
Health Record Documentation

By Joel S. Shoolin, DO; Larry Ozeran, MD; Claus Hamann, MD; and William F. Bria, MD

# Why Present our AMDIS Paper?

- Joel and Bill
- Explain your contribution to consensus
- Assist with your product selection
- Support your personal requests
  - Everyone wants effective, efficient documentation functions (not just you)
- Move the dialog toward better systems
- Go forth and proselytize!

# Consensus Process

## *AMDIS EHR Recommendations to Industry*

- Draft initial thoughts (2012)
- Get input from AMDIS list
- Invite others to edit sections
- Review and discuss (calls, email)
- Request final comments
- Incorporate final comments
- Submit for publication

# EHR Documentation Best Practices

## *Goals*

Begin and support ongoing dialog among the vendor community, AMDIS, and other interested organizations

- Improve electronic clinical documentation
- Promote our national goals of better care, healthier populations, and lower cost

# EHR Documentation Best Practices

- Clinical documentation supports patient care
- EHR features integrate into clinical workflow
- Usability is critical
- Clinical decision support fits into workflow
- EHR design promotes effectiveness and efficiency

# EHR Component Recommendations

- Graphical user interface, data model
- Data entry
- Data display
- Usability, human factors
- Versatile documentation
- Care provider connection
- Efficiency
- Compliance
- Decision support
- Record integrity



# Graphical User Interface and Data Model

## *Flexible GUI, extensible EHR (1)*

- Move from data capture to clinician engagement – like consumer apps
  - Link data entry flexibly to the underlying data model and seamlessly into optimized clinical workflow
  - *Not* tie data entry fields of the presentation layer (GUI) to data model that stores data
  - Need data abstraction layer to facilitate update of GUI



# Graphical User Interface and Data Model

## *Flexible GUI, extensible EHR (2)*

- Make EHR extensible via APIs to permit qualified third parties assisting user organizations with needed upgrades, independently of EHR vendor

# Graphical User Interface and Data Model

## *Flexible GUI, extensible EHR (3)*

- Consider “situational awareness” from battlefield applications
  - Time-pressure, multiple parallel tasks, risk and decision-making impact resemble clinical care

# Data Entry (1)

*Limit data entry, support time for decision & action*

- Keep electronic data electronic
  - Least possible human involvement in data transfer for maximum accuracy and minimum risk
- Make data entry context-sensitive
  - Pick lists, check boxes preferred over scrolling
  - Test balance of data-entry types before production
  - Minimize selection errors in multi-tasking environment
    - Example: Present specific list of diagnoses based on prior history

# Data Entry (2)

*Limit data entry, support time for decision & action*

- Make data entry easy and rapid
  - Limit data re-entry and data-gathering from disparate parts of the record
  - Make judicious use of macro functions (tokens, dot functions, acronym expanders, etc.)
  - Give clinician the time to analyze information and make decisions

# Data Entry (3)

*Customize data entry to the clinical need*

- Incorporate analytics to improve data-entry performance
  - Inappropriate selection of topmost medication choice → re-design
- Support free-text entry for narrative
- Give us a 3-fer
  - Assessment → Problem List → (the) Bill



# Data Entry (4)

## *Customize data entry to the clinical need*

- Copy-paste/forward with care: Consider
  - Forcing function; ex., no copy-forward for HPI
  - Hover message: “Sure you want to include copied text?”
  - Add reference, different font/color, original text
- Predictive analytics to the rescue?
  - Seamless electronic capture of all contextual information will obviate most copy-paste/forward.

# Data Display (1)

*Ensure accurate appraisal in the shortest time*

- Make displays configurable by the user
  - Use a common metaphor
  - Tabs or menu bars should be consistent across web pages
- Minimize the number of colors, keep within a single color scheme
- Use consistent fonts, sizes, styles, indentation, tall-man as needed, **AVOID ALL-CAPS**



# Data Display (2)

*Ensure accurate appraisal in the shortest time*

- Place identical functions (Enter, Next), results and data types in the identical locations across pages and contexts
- Use white space to emphasize key information
- Provide intuitive icons
- Keyboard shortcuts should be available
- Help should be context-sensitive

# Example

## ALL CAPS – White Space

**Problems**

ABDOMINAL PAIN, ACUTE  
 CONGESTIVE HEART FAILURE  
 EFFUSION, PLEURAL  
 EDEMA

**Medications** ! Drug Interactions

ZAROXOLYN TAB 5MG (METOLAZONE) 1 po qd  
 FUROSEMIDE TABS 20 MG (FUROSEMIDE) 1 po bid  
 ALBUTEROL AER 90MCG (ALBUTEROL) 2 puffs daily  
 ASCRIPTIN 325 MG TABS (ASPIRIN BUF(ALHYD-MGHYD-CACAR)) 1 by mouth daily  
 ATENOLOL TAB 25MG (ATENOLOL) 1 by mouth daily  
 NIFEREX-150 FORTE CAPS (FE BISGLY-FE POLYSAC-C-B12-FA) 1 by mouth daily  
 COLACE 100 MG CAPS (DOCUSATE SODIUM) 1 by mouth twice daily

**Flowsheet: Enterprise/Medicine/Cardiology/Cardiac**

	Date	Value
BP SYSTOLIC	01/03/2007	122
BP DIASTOLIC	01/03/2007	84
PULSE RATE	01/03/2007	66
PULSE RHYTHM	04/02/2003	regular
RESP RATE	04/02/2003	84
WEIGHT	04/02/2003	210
BMI		
AUSCUL HEART	04/02/2003	S1, S2, no murmur, rub, or gallop
EXERCISE	04/02/2003	1
SMOK HX PPD	04/02/2003	1/2
ALCOHOL USE	04/02/2003	2
SODIUM	09/20/2000	141
POTASSIUM	09/20/2000	4.7
CHLORIDE	09/20/2000	101
CO2	09/20/2000	23
CALCIUM	09/20/2000	9.3
CHOLESTEROL	09/10/2001	190
HDL	09/10/2001	60

**Documents: Summary View**

Date	Summary	Status
01/03/2007 12:4	Ofc Visit	Signed
07/28/2004 6:22	Lab Rpt: Metabolic Panel	Unsigned
04/02/2003 4:23	Ofc Visit: Physical	Signed
09/10/2001 6:00	Lab Rpt: Lipids	Signed
09/07/2001 10:5	Ofc Visit: Routine Visit	Signed
10/14/2000 6:00	Lab Rpt: Lipids	Signed
10/13/2000 10:1	Ofc Visit: F/u visit	Signed
09/21/2000 9:30	Lab Rpt: CBC w/o Differential	Signed
09/20/2000 9:30	Lab Rpt: Metabolic Panel	Signed
09/19/2000 6:00	Lab Rpt: CPK	Signed
09/16/2000 9:44	Ofc Visit: Initial cardiology consultat	Signed

**Scheduled**

**ALBUTEROL/IPRATROPIUM INHALER** None INH Q4  
 Last Dose: 2 EA (9/1/2010 07:54)

**ARTIFICIAL TEARS OPHTH SOLN 15ML BTL.** None OP Q2  
 Last Dose: 2 DROP (9/1/2010 05:44)

**ENOXAPARIN 40 MG/0.4 ML SYR** 40 MG SUBQ 1200  
 Last Dose: 40 MG (8/31/2010 11:57)

**FAMOTIDINE IVPB 20 MG/50 ML BAG** 20 MG IV Q12  
 Last Dose: 20 MG (8/31/2010 21:26)

**NICOTINE 14 MG/24 HR TDSY** 1 EA TD DAILY  
 Last Dose: 1 EA (8/31/2010 08:11)

**PIPERACILLIN/TAZO 3.375 GM (ZOSYN) IVPB** 3.375 GM IV Q6  
 Last Dose: 3.375 GM (9/1/2010 05:21)

**Vanco. 1 GM FROZEN (PHARMACY Only)** 200 MLS/HR IV Q12H (Tot Vol 20...  
 Last Dose: 200 MLS/HR (9/1/2010 03:54)

**PRN**

**0.9% NAACL 1000 ML IV** 0 MLS/HR IV .Q0M  
 Last Dose: 0 MLS/HR (9/1/2010 00:26)  
 Given 2 times in last 24 hours

# Usability and Human Factors (1)

*Optimize design for patient safety and user efficiency*

- Simplicity – no visual clutter
- Naturalness – navigation matches workflow tasks
- Consistency – screen locations, phrasing, colors, text styles

# Usability and Human Factors (2)

*Optimize design for patient safety and user efficiency*

- Forgiveness & Feedback
  - No fear of negative consequences
  - Spell-check
  - Alerts for missing documentation elements
  - “Undo last command” functionality
  - Abbreviation expanders

# Usability and Human Factors (3)

*Optimize design for patient safety and user efficiency*

- Language – succinct , familiar, avoiding IT buzzword
- Efficient interactions – minimize steps, clicks, page flips, dense screens
- Preserved context – minimize screen changes, interruptions during single task
- Cognitive load – simplify for safety



# EHR Component Recommendations

- Graphical user interface, data model
  - Data entry
  - Data display
  - Usability, human factors
- 

- Versatile documentation
- Care provider connection
- Efficiency
- Compliance
- Decision support
- Record integrity

# Versatility of Documentation

- Enable pertinent data to be viewed in many ways –import data into multiple displays and formats
  - clinical note,
  - final summary
  - note to support clinical decision-making
- Include triggers to populate clinical dashboards and quality reporting



# Connecting Care Providers

- Acknowledge or reference the notes of other care providers
- Support team documentation, like a wiki
- Sign-out lists should be automatically populated by orders as entered

# Efficiency

- Standard templates for the admission history and physical, progress, consultation and discharge notes
- Easy access to the assessment – APSO toggle
- Integrate notes from other organizations, e.g. outside consultations
- Support draft or preliminary status

# Compliance

- Versioning – make it easy to identify current and prior versions
- Recognize disallowed abbreviations and advise or recommend alternatives

# Decision Support

- Identify and display existing study results pertinent to the provider's assessment
- Identify patient risks proactively
- Document use or override of decision support in the record audit trail
- Medication reconciliation at admission and discharge

# Record integrity

- Time-stamp all note creation, review and edits (when permitted)
- Support track changes display functionality for notes that have changed
- Actively monitor metadata for trends

# EHR Documentation Best Practices

## *Summary: Recommendations to Industry*

- Graphical user interface, data model
- Data entry
- Data display
- Usability, human factors
- Versatile documentation
- Care provider connection
- Efficiency
- Compliance
- Decision support
- Record integrity

# EHR Documentation Best Practices

## *Recommendations to Industry - Conclusion*

- ✓ **AMDIS** roadmap for better documentation functionality
- ✓ **M**ake our case with vendors
- ✓ **D**rive the changes we need
- ✓ **I**mprove usability in clinical documentation tools
- ✓ **S**upport clinicians for optimal, safe and efficient patient care



We gratefully acknowledge our  
AMDIS reviewers:

**Peter Basch, Peter Catinella,  
Rose Dunn, Steven Davidson,  
Jin Hahn, Ken Ong,  
Richard Schreiber, Rod Tarrago,  
Nick van Terheyden,  
and Nancy Walker**