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Health Care

Five advantages of taking health records system electronic

Doctors & Data

Makes patient care safer. Patient care is safest when it is standardized and delivered without waste. Waste-free record keeping and communication free providers' time to address patients' needs. Information is available at the point of care and always legible.

Improves delivery of comprehensive services. Careful providers working with paper records in fragmented systems typically manage to deliver 50 percent of recommended services for their patients. Estimates indicate it would take an additional 7.4 hours per day for a provider to assure that all recommended services were provided to a panel of patients. Computerized record systems can solve this with high reliability.

Gives ability to learn from the care provided. Medicine is information-rich and knowledge-poor when it comes to learning from experience. Capturing clinical information as searchable data enables the application of business intelligence software to clinical care.

Reduces the burden for staff. Support staff is free to help with patients at hand when standardized, simplified documentation of care is in place.

Saves costs and transforms health care. By providing just what is needed when it is needed, the cost of care goes down and quality improves. Good medicine is good business.

Source: Dr. James Bender, Virginia Mason Medical Center



Dr. James Bender, medical director of health information at Virginia Mason, says electronic medical records cut costs and improve coordination of care.

Photo: Virginia Mason