

eLearning: An Employee Must

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Ever since the Obama administration announced its plans to reward medical practices that implement electronic health records within the next number of years, more and more providers have been jumping aboard the bandwagon and purchasing software packages designed to improve not only patient care, but their business models on a whole. The right EHR package can help a practice expedite patient services, maintain charts and notes, and turn what was once a rather trying aspect of running a medical office – billing – into a relative snap.

Of course, an EHR is only as good as the ability of the employees at hand to use it – which is precisely why proper training is so important during an EHR rollout. These days, providers tasked with getting their employees up to speed with EHRs have a number of training options from which to choose. They can opt for conventional classroom or on-site training; they can allow their employees to receive training online or at home via computer software; or they can employ a combination of face-to-face training and eLearning to maximize their results. For many, Option #1 still seems to be the preferred method of training, but as more and more employees start to get wise to the benefits of eLearning, they're likely to start demanding it as an option.

Why is eLearning so beneficial to employees across the medical field? For one thing, it allows them to keep doing what they do best – taking care of patients – during regular working hours. Since eLearning allows medical professionals to receive EHR training any time, any place, those who utilize this particular platform can get the education they need without

having to worry about compromising patient care.

Another advantage of eLearning as it relates to EHR training is the fact that it allows healthcare workers to learn at their own pace. Since jobs in the medical field tend to be rather demanding, to insist that a professional spend hours upon hours sitting through a course on her one day off a week is to ask an awful lot. With eLearning, employees can integrate training into their lifestyles in a far less obtrusive fashion.

Finally, proponents of online or computer-based learning management systems for EHR training believe that eLearning makes for better learning. Coupled with a few face-to-face sessions, eLearning allows healthcare employees to avoid the brain drain associated with day-long seminars and training courses. Considering the perpetual balancing act that is a healthcare worker's life, by introducing EHR training in a manner that is less overwhelming and far more manageable, employees are likely to get on board with the notion rather than resist it; and nothing helps new material sink in like a positive attitude and open mind.

Though in-person EHR training does offer certain benefits, in this day and age, providers looking to offer their employees with adequate training would be wise to consider the many advantages inherent in an eLearning approach. After all, the success of EHR usage is rooted in effective methods of training, and the sooner providers come to realize that, the better the returns on their investments they'll see.