Does eLearning Promote Better Learning?

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It seems like everything these days is going electronic. From books to banking to getting directions, paper-based information and face-to-face interaction are slowly becoming archaic in the grand scheme of technological advances. It therefore isn't surprising that more and more professionals and students alike are turning to their computers instead of the classroom when dabbling in their educational pursuits. From college classes to career advancement courses and job-related training, eLearning is taking the notion of knowledge to a whole new level by making it more available and attainable than ever before.

Surprisingly enough, one industry that has perhaps yet to embrace the notion of eLearning on a whole is none other than healthcare. Given the push toward electronic health records that has in recent years taken the industry by storm, it's a bit baffling to see that so many providers are still electing to receive EHR training in classroom settings as opposed to a much more convenient option: on the computer or over the Internet.

Though professionals across a variety of industries can benefit from eLearning as it relates to their own specific career paths, healthcare providers in particular have plenty to gain by pursuing online training in conjunction with EHR

implementation. Not only is eLearning an extremely flexible option for those whose schedules lend to twelve-hour days and weekends on call, but it also happens to be far more cost-effective than paying for classroom space and fronting the cost of travel expenses to and from seminars and conferences.

Time-related and financial considerations aside, there are many who believe that when it comes to EHR implementation, online or computer-based training can actually promote better learning. Though there are certain valid arguments for classroom EHR training – namely, the fact that it offers a degree of personal interaction and support during what many may consider to be a rather stressful endeavor – the right learning management system can help medical professionals receive the information and training they need in a manner in which their minds can properly absorb it.

In the medical field in particular – an industry in which professionals are often pushed to the limit - the benefit of eLearning is that it offers the option of short yet consistent interactions that

facilitate training in a non-overwhelming fashion. Rather than sit through hours upon hours of instruction, healthcare professionals can simply learn how to use their new

EHRs on their own time, and at their own pace.

Just as importantly, online learning management systems enable those who are less comfortable with the notion of using computers to fit additional practice runs into their schedules. Sometimes, all it takes is a few extra hours of pointing and clicking for a former technophobe to warm to the idea of computer usage on a day to day basis.

Finally, those tasked with coordinating EHR training efforts should realize that most healthcare professionals are nurturing individuals by nature whose primary concerns revolve around caring for their patients. If EHR raining is offered in a more flexible eLearning format, then providers won't have to worry about having the implementation process serve as an unwanted distraction. Instead, they can focus on their patients as necessary and learn their new software systems as time permits.

Although the concept of computer-based training may take some getting used to, professionals across the healthcare industry should realize that just as the EHR is the wave of the future, so too is eLearning bound to quickly follow suit. Fortunately for providers and patients alike, eLearning offers the perfect combination of instant education and opportunities for practice; and the more appealing the idea of EHR training becomes, the more likely healthcare professionals are to rapidly get on board.