

CASE STUDY



Busy podiatrist prepares his practice for the future with an integrated PM and EMR system

ORGANIZATION

Dr. Ronald W. Alm, a solo Podiatrist, has offices in Lewiston and Moscow, Idaho

OBJECTIVE

Improve practice efficiency and receive Meaningful Use reimbursements by going paperless with an electronic medical record system.

SOLUTION

Complement existing MicroMD practice management (PM) system with MicroMD electronic medical record (EMR) from Henry Schein Medical Systems.

Objective

As a long-time, self-employed podiatrist who sees an average of 25 patients per day, Dr. Alm knew the time was coming when it would no longer be practical or cost-effective to continue with paper charts. Data retrieval was complicated and inaccurate. Workflows were backing up. And it was becoming nearly impossible to juggle hard copies of patient information between staff and office locations. Without an electronic solution, he would always be tethered to the office.

"I could see the handwriting on the wall," says Dr. Alm. "Healthcare was changing and it was time to change with it. Having an EMR would be excellent for data collection and retrieval. I could have everything on a hard drive instead of on paper. And it also meant I could go into a patient chart from home and have all the information at my fingertips.

Solution

Dr. Alm was no stranger to the benefits of digitizing his practice, having long operated on a MicroMD PM system for billing and claims management, patient registration, and scheduling. He wanted a solution that would easily integrate with the PM software.

In 2011, Dr. Alm chose MicroMD EMR from Henry Schein Medical Systems. The decision, he says, was a "no-brainer" because it provided seamless integration and included the flexibility to customize his own templates.

Having been in business since the late 1980s, Dr. Alm knows his practice and its workflows better than anyone else. Some vendors tried to convince him that he needed an EMR designed only for podiatry. "That's malarkey," he says. "You don't need a specialist system. I can make my own templates. I can figure out my own workflow. I know exactly what I want in my notes. My MicroMD EMR gives me the ability to do all that and more."

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My biggest piece of advice is don't trust a small company for your PM and EMR needs. Henry Schein is a strong, reputable company with the flexibility that allows me to do whatever I want with my EMR."

- Ronald W. Alm, DPM
Podiatrist

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or call **800-624-8832**

Detailed results on back >>

Case Study Results

RESULTS

With MicroMD EMR, Dr. Alm now has flexible charting options, e-Prescribing and alerts, as well as meaningful use functionality that gives him the tools to record, monitor and attest to meaningful use. He has already received \$18,000 in Meaningful Use incentive payments since implementing the system.

His practice no longer keeps paper charts on new patients, resulting in significant reduction in storage space. In five years, the conversion to electronic records will be complete.

“Technology is the future, and I wanted to make sure I had a system that was both reliable and progressive.”

– Ronald W. Alm, DPM

“What’s funny is I’m going back to how I saw patients before I had an EMR,” he says. “I didn’t want to be one of those doctors that stare at a computer screen. Because MicroEMD EMR is an excellent data collection tool, I can start an encounter before I see a patient, compare the chart to our last exam and then don’t have to look at the computer again until I’m ready to put in instructions.”

MicroMD EMR’s architecture allows integration and interoperability with a variety of third party systems, enabling Dr. Alm’s practice to further streamline processes with a patient portal, integrated faxing and digital x-rays.

“Technology is the future, and I wanted to make sure I had a system that was both reliable and progressive.”

MicroMD EMR also streamlined operations by enabling staff to directly enter patient information into the record, making vital information immediately available to the physician. “It’s all there for me even before I see the patient,” says Dr. Alm. “I do the exam, do order entry for any medications and can send it off to the pharmacy before I leave the room.”

The new system has led to an increase in patient satisfaction. Having charts, lab results and medication orders available ahead of time enables Dr. Alm to spend more time with his patients.

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