

6 Ways Anesthesia EMR Software Does More Than 'Replace Paper'

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Electronic medical record (EMR) software marries the familiarity of traditional patient records with the convenience, accessibility, and efficiency of modern technology.

Adopting anesthesia EMR software isn't just about ditching paper for the digital. It's about investing in an information management system that transforms how you work.

Anesthesia EMR Software: Six Immediate Benefits

Upgrading from paper charts to EMR opens your existing workflows to optimization and flexibility.

EMR software integration will result in:

1. Ensured compliance
2. Simplified data analysis
3. Improved patient file security
4. Streamlined billing processes
5. Enhanced record accuracy
6. Increased office space

1. Ensured Compliance

As patient care reporting and billing standards change, so does an EMR software. With a few quick adjustments to master templates, forms used across your entire EMR system are updated and immediately put to use. Old medical codes can also be swapped out for new ones.

Unlike with anesthesia paper charting, there's no delay in reformatting, making copies, and distribution. You'll never worry about the wrong information being used or not meeting new regulations.

2. Simplified Data Analysis

Analyzing paper records can be a time consuming and error-filled process. It takes precious time to manually tabulated and evaluated to identify trends and analyze outcomes of treatments and a practice's performance.

Implementing an EMR software will allow you to create a compilation of specific data metrics and instantly generate comprehensive reports. It allows for an accurate and efficient way to provide required information to regulators for compliance checks or reports to your superiors.

3. Improved Security

With required encryption and other digital protections, an EMR software makes it virtually impossible to gain access to without the right credentials. The digital components of an EMR allows for tracking, keeping record of each time a patient's file is accessed. The tracking and improved security will ensure that private information is kept confidential and that only approved personnel will be able to access it. Additionally, anytime a patient's digital medical file is accessed, it's tracked.

4. Streamlined Billing

An EMR has the capability to capture real-time medical charges. Any patient service that's delivered is automatically logged and simultaneously added to an invoice. This eliminates the process of passing along a patient's paper medical file to a billing staff member or service to draw up the final bill.

When it comes time for reimbursement, all that's left to do is finalize the invoice and send it out. As an added benefit, invoices generated by EMRs are checked by the software for completion. If there's a blank fillable field or inconsistency, the program alerts you long before an insurance company rejects the submission, saving you from the time-consuming dispute process. Anesthesia billing becomes a simpler, predictable process.

5. Enhanced Accuracy

A doctor's handwriting — especially during the patient care — isn't always the easiest to read. With EMRs, information captured during a patient interaction is clearly documented. There's no struggle to understand sloppy handwriting or confusing terms.

As patient treatment is tracked in real time, EMRs provide healthcare professionals with a true portrait of patient care. Anesthesiologists and other care providers can see the exact time and type of medicines administered or examine changes in a patient's vital signs.

6. Increased Office Space

While paper medical records can be cumbersome, storing them is a whole new level of inefficiency. Requiring plenty of space, paper records are often stored in large bulky filing cabinets, resulting in whole rooms dedicated to storage or offsite storage warehouses.

When it's time to access a patient's file, it's an ordeal to locate and deliver the documents. Put simply, paper records require more work to maintain. With EMRs, your entire archive of patient records is immediately available — fully categorized and optimized for your use. The only equipment you'll need to retrieve them is a commonly used electronic device, such as a mobile device or a desktop computer.

Those thousands of patient files are now securely stored in the cloud.

Anesthesia EMR Software is Optimized Workflows in Action

Pivoting away from traditional paper records is indeed a big change for any anesthesia practice. Paper charts are what's been used in "modern" medicine for decades. Integrating EMR software into your anesthesia practice's existing operations makes your patient's medical records a true tool in providing better care.