

Pediatric EMR Software – An Essential Guide for Every Pediatric Physician



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Accelerating Healthcare Revenues

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About this eBook

This guide is meant as an essential reference for pediatric practices (clinics) and pediatric physicians including general pediatricians and specialist pediatricians including Developmental-Behavioral Pediatricians, Pediatric Gastroenterologists, Neonatologists, Pediatric Geneticists, Adolescent Health Specialists, Pediatric Dermatologists, Pediatric Allergists.

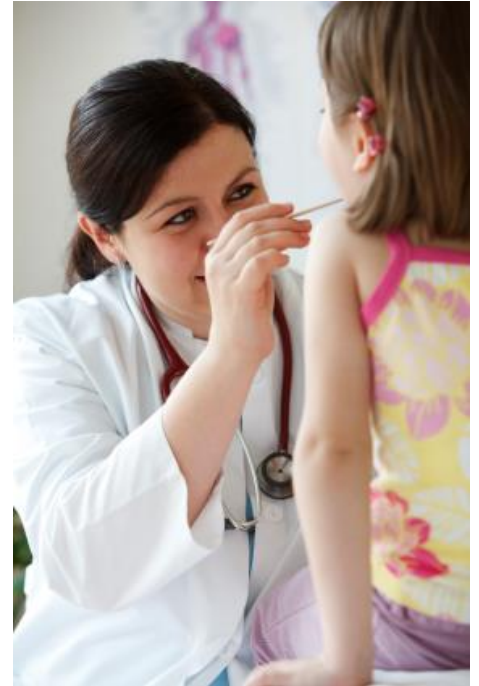
Whether you are looking to implement a new EMR or looking to replace your existing EMR, this guide will go a long way in answering some, if not all, of your questions. Should you implement an integrated practice management system, how much should you expect to pay for a top rated pediatric EHR, what certifications should you look for, will web-based or cloud-based EMR work for you – these are some of the many questions that will get answered after you have read through this eBook.

If you have any other questions and would like to speak with us, please call us at 408-625-7254.

Chapter 1: Your pediatric practice will benefit from Pediatric EMR

Your pediatric clinic can benefit tremendously from pediatric electronic medical record software. This type of software offers many benefits for a pediatric office.

- Intuitive electronic medical record software makes it simple and easy to increase your patient volume without being slowed by administrative tasks.
- Interactive Growth Charts track progress using pediatric growth charts that display every stage of the child's development from birth to adulthood.
- Clinical Process Automation saves time and you can see more patients thanks to automatic billing and clinical processes.



A study published in *The Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics* actually showed that pediatric EMRs used in large clinics were able to help identify the indicators of childhood obesity, which allowed the doctors to manage the issue in those children better.

Download our free article at <http://www.revenuexl.com/how-emr-increases-revenues/>.

Pediatric offices will find many different software options on the market today. Choosing the right EMR program is not an easy task.

Chapter 2: Why implement Pediatric Specific EMR?

EMR Creates an Efficient Medical Office

As a Pediatrician, your patients have different needs than adults. In the days of inefficient paper charts, it was common to see several patients before writing a single note on any of them. When you implement Pediatric specific EMR into your practice, this is no longer a concern. Your note is getting composed while you are evaluating your patient. Along with better documentation, you will also be able to track their growth and review other medical issues they have had in the past.

Instant Alerts

One advantage of using Pediatrics specific EMR is receiving alerts for patients immediately. These alerts can take the form of vaccination reminders, updates on medication dosages, or potential allergic reactions.

Coordinated Care

Physicians who use Pediatrics specific EMR find it easier to refer to and communicate with other doctors. Referring your patients is made easy because you can track medication changes and keep the patient's care consistent.

Tools for Patient Care

Pediatric EMR provides the appropriate tools for pediatric care. These tools include the following:

1. The right workflow that addresses the high volume and drop in nature of most pediatric visits.

2. Age and gender specific growth charts
3. Meet immunization tracking and regulatory requirements. See what has been given and what needs to be given.
4. Tracking family relationships to support specific care requests

Instant Access in Emergencies

Being on call is one of the most difficult components of being a Pediatrician. Parents are often frantic when they call after hours, and the burden is on the doctor to make accurate decisions quickly. In the past, restricted access to patient charts was a problem; however when you are able to log in and see your patients' medical records electronically, you will have more knowledge to give parents correct assessments over the phone.

Decreased Paperwork

One of the busiest times in any Pediatrician's office is when children go back to school, and when many of your patients will require vaccinations and physicals. Forms that are brought from school are easily misplaced by office personnel or parents. [Pediatrics specific EMR](#) will provide you with the forms you need that you can submit electronically to the school, ensuring that they receive them the first time.

Readily Available Family History

It is very helpful to have your patients' family history available. Electronic medical records give you the information you need to monitor conditions your patients have in reference to their family medical history. At each visit, you can review their history and make changes as needed, ensuring that you always have an updated history on hand.

Features of Pediatric Specific EMR

Pediatric EMR comes with ICD and CPT codes specific to pediatrics, tracking and reporting of vaccination, automated patient correspondence, and integration with diagnostic equipment. Pediatric software also offers templates for the specialty as well, including templates tailored for newborns, annual physical exams, autism, and state and school forms. Moreover, pediatrics-specific physical exam findings and relevant complaints and symptoms often result in speeding up the encounter and thereby achieve productivity gains.

Recommendation

Choose an EMR that has been specifically customized for your specialty so that it incorporates features and functionality most often required by physicians belonging to your specialty.

Chapter 3: Why choose Certified Pediatric EMR?

ONC-ATCB Certification

The use of a certified EMR/EHR software system is critical for any physician seeking to utilize electronic medical and health records software not only to improve the efficiency of the practice but also to recoup the costs of integration through the incentive funding of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Integration of ONC-ATCB (Office of the National Coordinator – Authorized Testing and Certification Body) certified EHR technology is a necessary first step for your practice in obtaining incentive funding.



Certified EHR technology gives assurance to purchasers and other users that an EHR system or module offers the necessary technological capability, functionality, and security to help them meet the meaningful use criteria. Certification also helps providers and patients be confident that the electronic health IT products and systems they use are secure, can maintain data confidentially, and can work with other systems to share information.

CCHIT Certification

CCHIT Certified® EHR certification is an independently developed, rigorous inspection of integrated EHR functionality, interoperability, and security. As part of the process, successful use is verified at live sites and product usability is rated. It is intended to serve providers looking for greater assurance that a product will meet their complex needs.

Recommendation

Choose an EMR that is both ONC-ATCB and CCHIT certified for maximum assurance about the quality of EMR that you are selecting.

Chapter 4: Cloud Based Pediatric EMR works for most Pediatric Clinics

Server based EMR systems were once the most popular option for many years. That is no longer the case thanks to matured cloud technology. For small to mid-sized practices and physicians on the go, the ability to securely access patient data from any computer, iPad, desktop, tablet or pocket PC is indispensable.



Cost Savings

Cost of implementing EMR in your practice can be staggering. The hardware and network setup alone can cost as much as \$30,000. Other fees and costs can nearly double this amount. With Web-based EMR you do not require an upfront investment in hardware and software. Web based EMR offers the lowest monthly operating cost and the most affordable implementation.

No Worries

Your data is protected against hardware and software failures through the use of fault-tolerant hardware and sophisticated, redundant data backups. You never have to worry about software maintenance and upgrades. All upgrades are managed server-side by your web based EHR vendor.

Access Anywhere

You have access to your medical records even when you are not at the office. You always have the information available. Access your web based EMR from anywhere in the world where you have an active Internet connection.

Security

System and data security utilized in web based EMR exceed the minimum requirements set forth by HIPAA. In many cases, the established security of data servers also exceeds what most healthcare providers use in a private practice.

Recommendation

Consult with your IT technician and your EMR vendor on what bandwidth you would need to support your entire team and your interfaces. If there are any technical constraints due to geographic accessibility, choose an EMR vendor that offers [client-server based EMR Software](#) for your specialty.

Chapter 5: Customization of 'Your' Pediatric EMR System



Every pediatric practice is different from all the other practices out there. You have your own staff, technology infrastructure, workflow, etc.

As discussed in a recent [article](#), appropriate customization was considered to be the key to successful pediatric EMR implementations. It has been [proven](#) that attempting to implement EMR systems that do not fit a provider's workflow or needs will not be successful.

What Does Your Vendor Offer?

Insist that your [Pediatric EMR vendor](#) not only sell you the software but also provide the following:

- a. Set up and configuration of the Pediatric EMR for your clinic
- b. A customized look and feel of the documents and forms produced by the software
- c. Customized Pediatric EMR templates in accordance with your specific requirements
- d. Help in configuring the workflow within EMR and recommending necessary changes in your office work flow so that all the capabilities of your new EMR can be utilized.
- e. Sufficient training to all your staff so that each of them understands the correct usage of various features of the EMR.

Customization Timeframe

How long does customization take? The timeframe will depend on the size of your operation as well as the amount of customization that you need. However, for small and mid-sized clinics, you should expect go-live within 30-60 days.

Chapter 6: Pediatric Specific Templates

Templates are an important component of the EMR system. A "template" is essentially a tool for organizing, presenting, and capturing clinical data within the EMR. Use of templates allows practices to gather all relevant information for their workflow on a single convenient screen, while populating the information into the medical record. Properly customized templates have been proven to increase percentage of chart completion thereby having a direct impact on practice revenues.

Out of the box Pediatric content and EMR Templates

Pediatric specific templates will often include the following: Growth Chart, Well/Sick Child Exam, Flu, Food Allergy, Abdominal Pain, Chest Pain, School Excuse, Conjunctivitis, Ears - Drainage, etc., Appendicitis, Abdominal Pain, Constipation, Reflux, Vomiting/Diarrhea, Point-n-Click SOAP Note and Referral Letters.

While the Pediatric EMR may come equipped with these templates, the pediatric vendor must work with you to customize the templates you use often and train you so that you can make the required tweaks to the templates on your own at a later date.

Recommendations

After the demo, check with your vendor about what additional templates you will need and if cost associated with creation of those templates will be included in the cost of EMR implementation.

Chapter 7: Practice Management Software and EMR Software Integration



Integrated pediatric medical billing software has many advantages and helps with overall practice management. Practice management (PM) software runs the business side of healthcare, from scheduling patients to billing to generating monthly reports. Therefore, picking the right system is also crucial for any medical practice. According to MGMA a major decision

point is picking a PM system that works well with the practice's EHR since EHR is more the driver than the PM system.

Integrated EMR and Practice Management System

An integrated EMR and Practice Management System are built from the ground up and share the same database. Integrated system eliminates the potential for communication and data interchange failure between the EMR and Practice Management components.

Interfaced EMR and Practice Management System

Interfaced systems where the EMR and Practice Management systems are developed by different vendors often involve a third party component for interfacing both the systems. Using two separate systems can come with many problems because the two may not always work well together. Quite often, there is a breakdown in communication (even between programs that are supposed to work well together), preventing a 2-way exchange of some data elements between them. Integrated systems eliminate lost or missed charges, and improve the patient experience via greater efficiencies.

If your practice already uses a practice management system that you cannot live without, check with your EMR vendor if they have interfaced with your practice management system in the past. If your practice management system is HL7 compliant, you should be able to find a third party component (like X-link) to interface it with your new EMR.

Recommendation

To conclude, the best solution to this potential breakdown in communication between practice management software and EMR is by choosing an integrated practice management and EMR system. This is an all-in-one answer that provides a seamless user experience, regardless of whether you're an office manager or a provider.

(Read our blog at <http://www.revenuexl.com/blog/bid/113982/Integrated-Practice-Management-and-EMR-is-Better-For-Your-Practice>)

Chapter 8: EMR Compatibility with Mobile Devices

According to www.cio.com, “the 2010 release of the Apple iPad opened many eyes in the



healthcare industry. For years, physicians and caregivers shied away from incorporating information technology into patient interactions because laptops and computers on wheels (COWs) were so cumbersome. A 10-inch tablet, though, made it easy to access patient records and medical images, look up drug information, schedule appointments and even

show patients educational videos at the bedside.

Going Mobile with your EMR

There are three ways that you can access your EMR Software from an iPad:

- a. Use the browser (Safari) on your iPad to connect to your EMR
- b. Use remote access mechanism to access the EMR that is running on your own server in your clinic
- c. Use native iPad specific application for your EMR that you can download from the Apple store front and enjoy the slick UI that is the hallmark of modern user friendly interface.

With Android gaining acceptance in the marketplace, many vendors are also gearing up to provide EMR that runs on Android based devices. *Ask your vendor about the types of devices and operating systems supported.*

Mobile Benefits

- a. The iPad is increasingly replacing the clipboard in several ways. Patients can fill out forms and questionnaires electronically before an appointment, and residents on

hospital rounds can use iPads to collect patient information, place orders and prescribe drugs earlier in the admissions process.

- b. The digital questionnaires (mentioned in (a) above) are a start, as are surveys taken at discharge that let staff members receive real-time feedback about a patient's visit. Physicians can also use iPad apps to explain medical conditions—in some cases, by drawing on images of X-rays.
- c. Telemedicine has traditionally not been conducive to helping patients connect to physicians from their own home. However, iPad with its built-in camera and optional 3G, can bring home health to the masses.
- d. Surgeons and their teams need access to lots of data before, during and after a procedure. There are many applications that enable remote monitoring of vital signs, object recognition and videoconferencing.

Recommendation

Choose an EMR that provides you with a native iPad or Android based application for doing most of your routine tasks including scheduling appointments, charting visit notes, ordering ePrescription, etc.

Chapter 9: Cost of Pediatric EMR

Cost of EMR implementation has been a major factor that has prevented widespread acceptance of EMR.

However, there is no simple or definitive answer in regards to the cost of implementing EMR in a Clinic. You have to consider the various factors that can raise or lower the price of the service for your clinic.

Read <http://www.revenuexl.com/blog/bid/108201/How-much-does-an-EMR-or-EHR-Software-really-cost> for more details.

Cost Factors

Type

As described earlier in this eBook, for various reasons, implementing a [web based EMR](#) solution requires little upfront investment in software and hardware vis-à-vis implementation of a server-based EMR solution.

Training

If you need onsite training so that you and your staff can be face to face with the trainer, you will incur additional travel, board and lodging costs in addition to the fixed implementation and training costs.

Customization

Implementation often assumes a certain amount of customization of the templates and workflow required by the practice. Since you are starting with a version of the EMR that has

been customized for your specialty, it is more often than not sufficient for most practices. It is better to check with your EMR vendor if you have any specific customization requirements.

Get in Touch

To get a realistic idea of how much your Pediatric EMR system will cost you, talk to your vendor about your specific needs. Make sure the vendor understands your full needs and provides you with a breakdown of all the costs involved. [Contact RevenueXL today](#) to get more information about our most affordable pricing options for your system.

Check out our pricing and cost comparison with other vendors at

<http://www.revenuexl.com/Portals/62006/docs/revenuexl%20emr%20pricing.pdf>

Chapter 10: Resources

1. [Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality \(AHRQ\) National Resource Center for Health IT](#) - Find information on pediatric rules and reminders and access pediatric documentation templates
2. [American Health Information Management Association \(AHIMA\)](#)
3. [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services \(CMS\)](#)
4. [Certification Commission for Health Information Technology \(CCHIT\)](#) - Authorized Certification Body (ONC-ACB) for certifying EHRs to support meaningful use
5. [GeneralPediatrics.com](#) - Identifies high quality web sites relevant to general pediatricians
6. [Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society \(HIMSS\)](#)
7. [Health Resources and Services Administration](#)
8. [Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology \(ONC\)](#)
9. [PediatricEducation.org](#) - A Pediatric Digital Library and Learning Collaboratory intended to serve as a source of continuing pediatric education
10. [Medical Coding Resources](#) - Offers information about certified EMR software, as well as articles about upcoming EMR legislation and incentives

Request Your Demo

Request your demo from our website at www.revenuexl.com/emr-demo. Please include as much information about your practice as possible including number of full time and part time providers, number of staff members, number of patients see each day and your budget.

One of our experienced sales executives will contact you to help get a better idea of your needs. We will then schedule a live demo for you and the other members of your staff. During that demo, you will get a chance to speak with the presenter about how our EMR Software can be best leveraged in your clinic for maximum ROI.

About RevenueXL

Established in 2005, RevenueXL of Cupertino, California (Silicon Valley) is a leading provider of healthcare solutions and EMR software, providing CCHIT and ONC-ATCB Certified Electronic Health Records Software to small and mid-sized practices. Our mission is to be recognized as the most trusted provider of integrated practice management solutions and electronic health records.

To achieve that, we use a unique blend of process knowledge, the most mature, proven EMR technology, and some of the most gifted individuals that allow us to deliver exceptional quality and value.

RevenueXL is more than just a provider of EMR software solutions – we are your partner in bringing your practice into the future of healthcare. Contact us today through our website at www.revenuexl.com, or call us at (888) 461-9998.

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RevenueXL provides both web based and server based [EHR solutions](#) to small and mid-sized clinics in addition to providing medical billing, coding and coding audit services.

Nothing in this e-book is intended to replace common sense, legal, medical or other professional advice, and is meant to inform and assist the reader.