



Technology Solutions Update

1st Quarter 2006

Minnesota Clinic Reaps the Benefits of EMR

In 2003, Pediatric and Young Adult Medicine in Minnesota began investigating ways to modernize its medical records system and to consolidate the records for its four offices into one location. The clinic also was looking for ways to cut down on the high dictation costs inherent to its paper-based records system.

Earlier, the clinic had already taken the first step towards updating its records and billing systems by working with MMIC Technology Solutions to add the NextGen enterprise practice management system. Purchasing NextGen electronic medical records from Technology Solutions was a natural next step, since the two systems are compatible and the clinic was already familiar with NextGen products and Technology Solutions staff.

Working with Technology Solutions, the clinic began adding the NextGen EMR system in August 2004. The system was operating by October 2004, two months ahead of their deadline.

According to Terri Joseph, the clinic administrator, within three months the clinic began reaping the benefits of the new EMR system. The clinic's doctors had instant access to patients' charts from any one of the four locations and from their homes. They no longer had to wait for records to be dictated or track

down charts that may be at other offices. Immunization records frequently requested by patients and their families were easier to locate and print. Because of the EMR's medication module, medication tracking was effortless and prescriptions were less prone to errors. In addition, the EMR made coding easier and more complete so the clinic's billing was more accurate.



NextGen EMR templates are customizable so the clinic's doctors can design them to meet their needs. Dr. John Balfanz, a pediatrician at the clinic and an MMIC board member, said, "As a physician, I understand what information physicians need to access during patient appointments. Since I can modify the EMR screens myself, I can build them to meet those requirements."

The clinic expects to recoup its costs for the EMR system in four years, largely through savings realized by ending dictation, according to Joseph. It also will implement other EMR features that will improve productivity including making lab reports available through the system.

Manage Documents With NextGen's Image Control System

Medical practices using NextGen EPM and EMR now have a new tool to help manage medical documents and make the paperless office a reality. NextGen Image Control System (ICS) makes it easy to scan and store documents and images for viewing from within the NextGen EPM or EMR systems.

ICS is a timesaver for physicians because it works seamlessly with the EMR and EPM systems. For example, when a physician views a patient document scanned through the ICS application, EPM or EMR automatically opens the patient chart associated with the scanned document. If the physician is reviewing a chart in EPM or EMR, the scanned documents are easy to locate within the system.

Scanning documents with ICS is simple. Office staff can scan documents including progress notes, patient charts, lab results, X-rays and explanation of benefits, using most standard scanners. The documents are indexed and stored as images within a central library on the practice's computer network where they can then be opened using a viewer in the ICS application or from within NextGen EPM or EMR. Practices can use an ICS standard indexing method such as medical record number or patient number to store documents or they can use a system customized to their needs.

To learn more about going paperless with NextGen ICS call MMIC Technology Solutions at 888-928-8266.

Web Site Management Made Easy

Imagine this...a new doctor joins your practice, and you want to announce the good news. You go right to your website's management tool and add the announcement of the new doctor.

MMIC Technology Solutions makes this scenario possible by providing content management capabilities to its website clients. Site administrators do not need programming skills to update the site, and practices save time and money when staff members can add content to the site.

If a practice isn't sure what content to include on its website, Technology Solutions can consult with

the practice's staff to help generate content ideas. Technology Solutions also can provide practices with access to a repository of health-related, web-ready content through its partnership with A.D.A.M., a health information content provider. A.D.A.M provides quality medical content that is specialty specific.

Call MMIC Technology Solutions web services if you want to create an exciting new website or to learn more about its web services. The sales team can be reached at 1-800-328-5532, or at <http://www.mmicgroup.com/TechSolutions/>

Microsoft® Announces Patch Requirement

MMIC Technology Solutions Can Help Install

You may have received a letter mentioning that you must install a Service Pack 2 patch if you purchased any of the following Microsoft products recently:

- Microsoft Office Professional 2003
- Microsoft Office Access 2003
- Microsoft Office XP Professional
- Microsoft Access 2002

This installation request is the result of a recent court decision that requires Microsoft to replace patent-infringing code in its products.

The Service Pack 2 patch is required for new installations of the Microsoft products. If you were already using these products prior to February 2006, you are not required to install the patch. However, you can voluntarily install the service pack, which also includes the latest security updates from Microsoft.

If you are a MMIC Technology Solutions network support customer and are interested in learning how we can help with the patch installation call 888-928-8266. If you would like more information about our network support service visit our website, www.mmicgroup.com/TechSolutions/TechnologySolutions.cfm or call 888-928-8266.

MMIC Technology Solutions would like to welcome its newest customers:

- Apple Valley Medical Center
- Stillwater Medical Group
- Great River Health Systems
- Burlington Area Family Practice
- Northern Iowa Urology

Upcoming Events:

Iowa MGMA Conference

May 10–May 12
Des Moines, Iowa



Advancing Patient Care
Strengthening the Bottom Line
Enhancing Clinic Efficiency