From Dr. Rebecca Smith-Coggins  
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**BECOMING SAVVY WITH THE EHR**

A connected electronic health record (EHR) system has a multitude of benefits. However, the data entry burden has fallen on clinicians with a nationally reported negative impact on patient interactions, length of workday, and practitioner mental health. Various groups at Stanford are striving for practical interventions to lessen the negative influences.

At a policy level, Dr. Nancy Morioka-Douglas, Clinical Professor of Medicine, is the Stanford lead for a multi-center survey funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. This survey is a needs assessment for policy makers that queries physicians about time expenditure, painful aspects, and desired improvements/innovations. Soon, randomly selected Stanford doctors will be invited to participate in this survey.

At LPCH, Dr. Lindsay Stevens, Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Physician Lead for Training and Communications in Clinical Informatics, manages the Home 4 Dinner Program (H4D). This incentivized intervention provides an individual learning plan for each clinician that is based on that clinician’s EHR use metrics, physician survey data that highlights specific difficulties, and direct observation of computer interactions by that clinician. A one-on-one trainer then assists the provider in improving efficiency and minimizing pain points according to that person’s practice style. Dr. Yumi DiAngi, Clinical Informatics Fellow, is analyzing metrics for improvements. The Clinical Informatics team meets monthly to assess and provide systems modifications for commonly identified problems.

At SHC, Dr. Christopher “Topher” Sharp, Chief Medical Information Officer and Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine, is leading a Digital Solutions program that maximizes efficiency by focusing on tools and workflow. The program utilizes individual department input and personalized training. Physician input resulted in a single screen overview of all activities that led to improved workflow. Notable technological improvements include single sign-on and use of Dragon speech recognition.

Enhanced efficiency of medical practice is one of the primary objectives of our WellMD Center. Therefore, we are orchestrating a joint SHC & SCH Epic leadership meeting to facilitate the exploration of the EHR as a tool to improve physician work efficiency and wellness.

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**Research:**


During a busy 10 hour ED shift, total mouse clicks approached 4,000 per clinician. Time spent with direct patient care averaged 28%, vs. 43% for data entry.


“Better medical record systems are needed that are dissociated from billing, intuitive and helpful, and allow physicians to be fully present with their patients.”