

Pediatric EHR Shoppers' Guide 2011

This is an informal guide of questions and functionalities to ask vendors when reviewing an Electronic Health Record (EHR) for pediatric use. In general when discussing a specific function in the EHR your considerations should include the following:

- How essential is the function for your pediatric practice to use this product?
 - Can the product perform the function and if so, how well?
 - If not, (when) is implementation the functionality planned?
 - How does it compare in terms of usability, integration with other components (such as appointments/billing, vaccine management, referrals) and interoperability with other entities (immunization registries, hospital information systems)?
 - Other considerations include: pricing, tech support and upgrades, customizability to your practice, etc.
1. Patient registration for multiple children (Show screen functionality and workflow)
 - a. How does a provider enter family and social histories common to three siblings in a family during a new patient visit (ie. how much duplicate entry is required)?
 - b. How can a provider link and retrieve charts quickly for all siblings in a family of four children: John Jones, Mary Jones, Sidney Smith and Chris Smith
 - c. How easy is it to change patient names and to search for such patients across different names?
 - d. How does a provider merge two records for the same patient registered under two different names?
 2. Growth charts/BMI (show screen functionality)
 - a. How does a provider enter and plot weight, length and head circumference for a 2 month well child visit for an ex-28 week premature infant (i.e. corrected to 36 weeks gestational age) on a growth chart for premature infants?
 - b. How does a provider graph and display body-mass index (BMI) for a 5 year old child in comparison to CDC norms
 - c. On a graph of weight/height for a child, how are the data points managed (do they need to be keyed in or can they be entered (or looked up) by mouse or pointer)?
 - d. Does the EHR support specialized growth charts (e.g. Down syndrome)?
 - e. Can the EHR use and update WHO growth chart for infants 0-2 years of age?
 3. Immunizations (show screen functionality AND workflow)
 - a. Display a child's immunization schedule for 2 months, 4 years and 14 years according to the current immunization schedule (ACIP, updated every 6 months) with flags for delayed immunizations
 - b. Display how a practitioner enters vaccination data for a 4 year old (pre-school) well child visit, including distinguishing combination vaccines, product/lot numbers, administrator, date, injection site, and documentation of receipt and review of consent/immunization information sheets
 - c. How will the EHR display vaccine indications, recommendations and contraindications for a patient who is 15 months old who missed their 12 month

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well visit/hasn't had a check up since 9 months of age and had a varicella vaccine 2 weeks ago at an outside facility?

- d. How does your product receive and send practice immunization data with an immunization information system (IIS)? Is there a standard data format and if so, what is it?
- e. How easy is it to print immunization records for parents/schools (on paper and/or display on practice Web portals)?
- f. How are all patients in a practice who are overdue for PCV13 are identified then flagged or listed for the provider/office staff?
- g. How does a practice manager get facilitated/automatic reporting of immunization status for all 2 year old children within the practice for regulatory agency reporting?
- h. How does the EHR support and/or interact with vaccine inventory management?
- i. How does the EHR identify and flag (or document) all patients due influenza immunization?

4. Electronic prescribing (show screen functionality AND workflow)

- a. How can a provider create an electronic prescription for weight-based dosing for amoxicillin (oral suspension) for a child for otitis media using a standard formulary and weight from the electronic record?
- b. How can a provider create an electronic AND/OR an EHR-assisted prescription for methyphenidate for 10 mg po BID (8A and 12N), including specifications for school day and weekend/holiday dosing (8A dose given at home; 12N dose given at school on schooldays)
- c. How is an automatic refill (and its documentation) handled for hydroxyzine (25 mg tabs, 20 tabs, 1 tab orally three times a day, prn for itching) for a 50 kg 13 year old, performing a formulary check according to insurance?
- d. How does the electronic prescribing function/EHR check a prescription for drug allergies and drug-drug interactions according to the medication and allergies list and providing point-of-prescription alerts to the prescriber?
- e. How does the EHR intercept an acetaminophen overdose in a weight-based prescription for an 80 kg child (acetaminophen dose: 10-15 mg/kg/dose; adult maximum 650 mg/dose) and provide a point-of-prescription alert?

5. Adolescent privacy (show workflow):

- a. How does the EHR help assure confidentiality for birth control, substance abuse treatment, HIV testing and STD testing/treatment for adolescents according to the practice's rules?
- b. How does the EHR allow alternative billing documentation to assure adolescent privacy according to practice/local rules and laws?
- c. How does the EHR help the practice comply with HIPAA?
- d. How does the EHR share a patient's HIV information with a health information exchange?

6. Interoperability (workflow and functionality/screen)

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- a. Can the EHR accept an electronic record (in CCD/CCR format) for a toddler in your practice from a local emergency department or local hospital inpatient ward?
- b. Does the EHR support transfer of electronic newborn records from a hospital nursery?
- c. With which practice management systems does the EHR integrate or interoperate? How difficult and expensive is it to add others?
- d. What is the format and organization of an electronic record of a patient who is transferring to a practice with a different system or which uses only paper?
- e. Does the EHR provide a patient portal or otherwise provide features (e.g. patient handouts) to integrate with the practice's website? If so, what is the source of the patient handout information? Can it support my own handouts?

7. Meaningful Use

In addition to the questions above, have the vendor give you their documentation of how their product meets the meaningful use criteria

NOTES: