

BRIGHT IDEAS


Quick tips you can use today

EHR options have multiplied and hospitals increasingly offer their software with incentives to sweeten the deal. But small groups should read the fine print carefully.

Few inpatient EHR solutions come close to matching the office-based functionality that a small- to medium-size practice requires, and they often over-deliver unnecessary functionality. Before adopting a hospital system, ask questions about who controls the service/support relationship; what input you get into the hardware; and whether practices must adhere to predefined, standard setup decisions made by the hospital staff.

Rather than automatically signing on the dotted line when a hospital system is

offered, analyze the options available to suit your needs, including:

1. Tailored functionality: Features that are scaled to the practice's needs, work flows and specialty, with the option to add functionality;
2. Support: A robust vendor implementation team with ongoing support; and
3. Integrated solution: An EHR product that integrates easily with practice management and/or revenue cycle systems as effectively as third-party systems, such as laboratory and radiology. 



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