

Year Starts With Forward Thinking

Cloud-based EHR helps doctor improve efficiency and documentation

Mary Anne Murphy, OD, a Vision Source® member in Broomfield, Colo., has been a beta tester for the Eyefinity® EHR since September. She enjoys being a part of the large group of ODs who are providing feedback as Eyefinity expands its offerings to include the cloud-based Eyefinity EHR. "Having doctors involved in the software development as beta users is going to make this so much better for optometry," she says.



Dr. Murphy

dry eye workup, I typically go to one of three options. The system knows that, and those are the first three options that pop up," she says. If she chooses a less common response, she can find that option quickly, but for the routine tasks that she does daily, it's a significant time savings that the software options mirror how she works. "It continually repopulates the top 10 diagnoses and notes," she says.

That makes it easier to document care, too. Dr. Murphy customized her notes for a variety of conditions—and now that language is what populates her documentation or letters to referring physicians. It's still customizable, but it saves a lot of time.

Best of all, that adaptive learning is user-dependent. When one of



Documentation is made easy with a selection of graphics.

systems, you have to pay for those upgrades, but with Eyefinity, the subscription includes updates all year round." Because the system is cloud-based, too, the upgrades are easier than ever before. "Typically, I'll get a message on Friday afternoon that says Eyefinity technicians will be upgrading the system over the weekend. When I start it up on Monday morning, it's all done," she says.

There's no worry about data backups or scheduling downtime for a system upgrade, and there's no need to have an IT person come in. When it comes to updating a system for meaningful use or ICD-10 codes, for example, being able to have those updates done with no involvement from the office staff is a benefit.

"There are even savings with the hardware requirements," she says. "It used to be expensive to buy a computer that had the requirements needed to support a robust, server-based system." Dr. Murphy uses both the cloud-based portal as well as the native iPad® program, so all she needs is a laptop or iPad that can connect to the Internet. That technology is also much less expensive, which means she'll be more inclined to update the hardware rather than trying to make obsolete hardware last.

Finally, patients love seeing her using an iPad in the exam room. They know and use the technology themselves and are wowed that it has applications in eye care.

Even after just three months of using Eyefinity EHR, Dr. Murphy says she can see that it's making a difference—in the thoroughness of her documentation and in its ease of use. ✍️

Dr. Murphy can make notations right on her iPad.

MAKING THE SWITCH

When Dr. Mary Anne Murphy made the switch from ExamWRITER® to Eyefinity® EHR in September, she reduced her patient load for a week and a half. "Because we're still using the OfficeMate® system, it's not as if everyone in the office had to make a switch. It was just the doctors and clinical staff," she says.

By scheduling fewer patients per day, she and her associates were able to learn the ins and outs of the new software calmly and confidently. "That was enough time, and after that, we began to tap into the fun stuff that we can use to increase our efficiency. I'm still finding new functionalities all the time," she says. ✍️

Already, the Eyefinity EHR has created some improvements in her office. While some users appreciated ExamWRITER templates, others found them limiting. "Eyefinity EHR has multiple entry points and exit points, so you're not confined to the templates. Now, the technicians can enter their data, and they don't have to make an assumption about what kind of an exam it's going to turn into. The doctor can move through the software system more easily," she says.

Eyefinity EHR also features adaptive learning, in which the software analyzes common procedures and responses. "Essentially, the software learns how you like to perform your exam. For example, if I'm doing a

her three associates uses the system, the software responds to the protocols it has learned from that doctor's earlier responses. "It's independently customized for each doctor, OD or MD," she says. It also can adjust itself to different areas of the clinic as the doctor moves around. "If I'm conducting primary care exams for two days and then I switch to a dry eye clinic, the software adapts."

Being a beta tester, Dr. Murphy has had the chance to experience a number of upgrades or enhancements as she and other testers provide their feedback to Eyefinity. "Eyefinity is constantly open to improvement. With some software

