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# The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule provides consumers with important privacy rights and protections with respect to their health information, including important controls over how their health information is used and disclosed by health plans and health care providers. At the same time, the Privacy Rule recognizes circumstances arise where health information may need to be shared to ensure the patient receives the best treatment and for other important purposes, such as for the health and safety of the patient or others.

In addition, the guidance provides relevant reminders about related issues, such as the heightened protections afforded to psychotherapy notes by the Privacy Rule, a parent's right to access the protected health information of a minor child as the child's personal representative, the potential applicability of Federal alcohol and drug abuse confidentiality regulations or state laws that may provide more stringent protections for the information than HIPAA, and the intersection of HIPAA and FERPA in a school setting.

I'm not familiar with a specific healthcare but this are some prevalent challenges a healthcare may face in implementing its electronic medical/health records system:

1. The technical ability According to the Morsani College of Medicine of USF Health, a computer's ability to retrieve and send data throughout healthcare is effected by its age and other factors, such as the area in which the practice is located. Connecting to the system and internet can be more difficult for a system that is located in a rural setting over an urban region. Make certain the location of your practice will make EHR implementation and usage a non-stressful task for you.
2. The cost of use Advances in health information technology, such as EHRs, can be expensive in both implementation and usage. Finding the expenses to invest in training, support, and the physical infrastructure itself can be a common barrier, especially for smaller practices. Before making the decision to implement EHRs, it's important to lay out the funding beforehand.
3. The people Unfortunately, not everyone is on board with the idea of implementing and using EHRs. There will be patients and providers along the way that may reject EHRs or easily give up on them if there are initial technical malfunctions. Before bringing EHRs into your practice, consider the barrier you may face with patients and coworkers – it's important to be ready to face each and every opinion.

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4. **The workflow break up** One of the main purposes of implementing EHRs is to create a steady workflow in the practice. Unfortunately, Getting Paid said sometimes EHR implementation can mess up the workflow in a practice entirely if it is not customized to fit its purpose properly. To avoid this problem, make certain your vendor gives you a proper demonstration of how the implementation will work in your practice.
  5. **The training** During EHR implementation, practices are suggested to train their employees throughout the new and improved workflow process. Unfortunately, this takes extra time, effort and resources some practices may not be able to afford. Before agreeing to implement EHRs, find out exactly how much training should go into the process and only go through with it if your practice is ready to complete it. Training is one of the most important parts for successful EHR implementation.
  6. **The concerns with privacy** According to USF Health, some healthcare providers and patients may be concerned about medical privacies when using EHRs. Common concerns include lost information due to a natural disaster and cyber hacks. Before implementing EHRs, ask questions in regard to how strict privacy will be in your new system.

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