

## SPECIALTY-SPECIFIC EHR FUNCTIONALITY: PEDIATRICS

*Hedge Stahm*

*Product Marketing Specialist*

*Hedge Stahm has been active as an application specialist in EHR product development and marketing since he joined Practice Partner in 2001.*

○ | Practice Partner's physician product manager works with pediatricians to develop specialty-specific content that takes the unique workflow and information needs of pediatric practices into account.

From general practitioners to gynecologists and chiropractors, different types of physicians administer a wide range of treatments to diverse groups of people. Pediatricians are no exception; the unique demands of caring for young patients require an electronic health record (EHR) with specific features designed to meet those needs. McKesson's Practice Partner®, a suite of fully integrated EHR and practice management applications that includes Practice Partner Patient Records, Order Entry, Medical Billing and Appointment Scheduler, offers a broad set of features specifically designed to meet the needs of pediatricians as well as easy-to-use customization tools that make the software work best for their practice.

### TEMPLATES AND REPORTING

It all starts with great pediatric content. Practice Partner's physician product manager works with pediatricians to develop specialty-specific content that takes the unique workflow and information needs of pediatric practices into account. Practice Partner provides a complete package of pediatrics templates, including age-specific well-child visit templates (from new born to 18 years old) and illness-specific templates for common pediatric conditions such as diaper rash, acne, head lice, asthma and many others. Templates for sports physicals and immunizations are also included in the package and can be printed for school enrollment and travel.

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Flow chart templates enable clinicians to quickly compare and analyze patient information, including laboratory data, vital signs, medication and health maintenance items. Flow charts can also be used to create and monitor pediatric care plans and growth charts. These templates can be easily customized for certain ethnic groups or specific medical conditions such as Down syndrome.

With Practice Partner, pediatricians have virtually unlimited capability to report on patient data. The Patient Inquiry feature enables pediatricians to search groups of patients based on up to 14 different parameters such as age, diagnosis and medications. Results of a Patient Inquiry can be used to generate statistical summaries, create form letters and labels for reminder notes, or provide a rapid way to select patients that meet specific criteria, such as those on a particular medication.

### EDUCATION RESOURCES

To support patient education, the Practice Partner system provides pediatricians the ability to link directly from note templates to pediatric guidelines and patient instructions. Using Practice Partner Patient Education (with clinical content from McKesson), physicians can access pediatric-specific educational materials for children and adults covering more than 1,000 pediatric health and behavioral problems, making it even easier for pediatricians to help families after they leave the office.

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### INTERFACING

Practice Partner offers standardized and custom interfaces in both real-time and batch mode and is capable of providing a broad spectrum of interfaces, including:

- Demographic and scheduling interfaces to existing practice management systems (allows practices to keep their existing billing systems)
- Results and orders interfaces to both national and regional clinical reference labs
- Interfaces to state immunization registries, allowing practices to automatically update registries from data within Practice Partner
- Custom interfaces including links to pathology, radiology and hospital systems

Practice Partner also supports the Continuity of Care Record (CCR) standard, which allows practices to both import and export CCR summaries with any CCR-compatible EHR.

## EQUIPMENT

Practice Partner provides integrated connectivity to commonly used devices within the office. The Practice Partner Spirometer by Midmark Diagnostics Group gives physicians all the measurements needed to provide an objective measurement of lung function—ideal for pediatric patients with asthma. Practice Partner users can perform 12-lead analysis within Practice Partner Patient Records using integrated electrocardiogram (ECG) from Midmark Diagnostics Group, which transforms any appropriately configured Practice Partner workstation into a fully functional ECG machine. The Practice Partner Glucose Meter Interface (GMI) enables physicians to directly import blood glucose meter readings and related information into Patient Records from the patient's meter, which is very helpful for managing young patients with diabetes. A Welch Allyn vital signs interface allows vital signs data capture to be electronically transferred into Practice Partner Patient Records Version 8.1 and higher.

## PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

Not only does the Practice Partner system make the management of patient data easier, it includes a variety of features designed to help pediatric practices run smoother and more efficiently. Schedules, labs and other important information are displayed on the provider dashboard for pediatricians and staff members to view upon arriving to work each day. User-specific “to-do” lists allow users to set reminders, create and manage task lists, and assign duties for themselves and others. Appointment Scheduler gives pediatricians the ability to create electronic encounter forms from a progress note. Additionally, Medical Billing enables practices to set up user-defined codes and multiple fee schedules, and the billing specialist can post a visit charge with a single click and manage complex family relationships (an account can have up to 255 patients assigned to it).

“Practice Partner provides the best of both worlds—specialty-specific content that impacts critical areas of workflow is combined with a robust, award-winning feature set that is applicable across practices,” said Dr. Andrew Ury, MD, vice president and general manager of McKesson's Practice Partner business. “Practice Partner offers all the tools that pediatricians need in an EHR, and its easy user configurability allows pediatric practices to fine-tune the product to meet their specific needs.”

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