

SELECTING COMPUTER APPLICATIONS AND SOFTWARE

Using computers intelligently should allow you to simplify many aspects of your medical practice. This includes billing; scheduling; maintaining patient records; and submitting insurance claims; which can all be done electronically.

It is widely believed that electronic health records (EHRs) can improve the quality of healthcare, improve communication and care coordination, and prevent medical errors. There are many national initiatives underway to expand and facilitate the adoption of EHRs, covering aspects of health information technology (HIT) such as uniform technical standards, software certification, and privacy/security standards. In fact, if you're a Medicare provider, you will be penalized financially if you fail to show meaningful use of electronic health records.. Check the EHR page of the APA website for background on national initiatives, software reviews, and links to outside resources,

<http://www.psychiatry.org/practice/managing-a-practice/electronic-health-records>

Before investing in new software, it is necessary to define your particular practice needs and then identify the resources necessary to implement new technology. For help in defining your needs and understanding the kind of resources available, go to <http://www.psych.org/practice/managing-a-practice/electronic-health-records/resources#Evaluate>.