

Do you use a Chronic Disease Registry? Who operates it? Do you think that it is worth the time and money?

1. Yes, but not a very good one. I use an access database registry for all my endoscopic patients to track polyps, cancer, and Barretts with follow up out to 10 years. You have to have a registry to do that.

I use a word document to list all my OB patients with their parity, due date, and problem list, as well as outcome.

I use my billing system to pull patients with asthma and COPD by billing code and then pull all their charts to make sure they have had Spirometry. If I had a better registry I am sure I could track that with less effort. It pays for itself though with the charge for getting the patient in for their pfts.

Diabetes..... I am not sure needs a registry since patients come in every 3 months and there is plenty of opportunity to up date care on a protocol. It might help find the folks who fall off the map, don't show for their appointment, and are lost to follow up.

With all this tracking on computer you would think I would have an EMR, but I haven't found anything that will do all these different functions.

2. My EMR (eClinicalWorks) has a registry so we can pull lists by diagnosis code. We do use this. My diabetes nurse pulls the registry of all diabetes patients and checks to see if they have their current a1c, lipids, foot exam, eye exam etc. If not, she calls them to schedule an appointment. Same with HTN, Lipids, etc. We can pull registry by meds, zip code, labs, etc. We have not used so much in past, but expect to increase use in near future. Our next upgrade will improve registry use. We are in the OFMQ study which requires data be pulled by registry, so it is really becoming useful. The EMR (eClinicalWorks) is reasonably priced and has scheduling, billing, EMR, registry, patient portal, inner office messaging, lab interface, digital fax, e-scribe with Surescripts and RxHub, etc. I have been using it for 3 years and rate it an 8 on 1-10 scale. OFMQ likes it very well and gave me pointers on how to use the registry better. Another EMR that I looked at, but did not purchase was eMD. They were also reasonably priced and when I looked at it, it did all the bells and whistles and I have heard good feedback on it. I purchased my eClinicalWorks for around \$12,000.00 or it can be leased. The company also backs up your data online for you.
3. We can pull diseases from our EMR by diagnoses. I am not aware that anyone in our practice makes regular use of this.
4. Yes, for preventive services and diabetes. My appointment clerk prints the summary sheets. Crystal inputs data. Couldn't do it without Crystal, who doesn't work for the clinic (extra part-time clinic staff they don't pay for.)