

SUNY College of Optometry Teaches the Value of Integrated Health IT

THE CHALLENGE

Provide a user-friendly EHR

With a robust program of research and graduate education with 65 affiliated clinical training sites, SUNY College of Optometry serves more than 400 students pursuing careers in eye and vision care.

The educational experience includes The University Eye Center—providing care for approximately 60,000 patients annually. Combining education and patient care adds a layer of complexity to the demands placed on the EHR. Faculty and students need an EHR that's flexible to meet their unique needs and easily integrates with other systems across the campus and its many training sites.

THE SOLUTION

Meet the faculty's wish list

Karine Grigoryeva, clinical systems administrator at SUNY College of Optometry, takes pride in making the workflow easy to understand and use for students, graduates, residents, or faculty members, as well as administrators. NextGen Enterprise EHR provides the flexibility necessary to develop templates that meet demands of each group.

"The faculty gives me a wish list of what they want to see in the workflow, and I provide them multiple options of how it could be achieved because, with NextGen Enterprise EHR, you can do one thing multiple ways," said Grigoryeva.

Departments within the college work closely with Grigoryeva, who customizes and creates various EHR templates. Many projects require the ability to interface with various eye care devices. A high level of flexibility ensures faculty have the necessary tools to give students a taste of real-world practice, along with the benefits of health IT integration.

"After all, eye care practices are driven by providers and staff, so it's important to have a system that can be modified to keep them happy," said Grigoryeva.

THE RESULTS

Give students a taste of real-world eye care

"We teach students how to use the EHR from the second year of their studies and up," said Grigoryeva. "There's a learning curve for those new to the system. By graduation, they are experts, particularly on NextGen Enterprise EHR."

CLIENT PROFILE

SUNY College of Optometry

Background: Founded in 1971, the State University of New York (SUNY) College of Optometry offers a Doctor of Optometry degree, as well as MS and PhD degrees in vision science. The College is regionally accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Its four-year professional degree program and residency programs are accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education of the American Optometric Association.

Location: Midtown Manhattan, New York

NEXTGEN HEALTHCARE SOLUTIONS

- NextGen® Enterprise EHR
- NextGen® Enterprise PM
- NextGen® Mobile

HIGHLIGHTS



Optometry students introduced to the **benefits** of an integrated EHR



EHR experience helps students prepare for real-world practice



Configurability necessary to meet the demands of various departments and providers



NextGen Mobile is **avored** by students and faculty

To make the EHR as user-friendly and fail-safe as possible, features are built into the templates to catch errors. For example, an alert pops up if documentation is incomplete and may affect billing in several templates. A process is built into the system to alert students of various errors while they are entering clinical documentation into the EHR.

In another example, many claims were held up because the locations of the encounters were documented incorrectly. Grigoryeva reprogrammed the system to automatically correct these errors.

“These mistakes happen when you have a hundred users on the EHR at the same time,” said Grigoryeva. “And of course, students do not always understand the billing portion of the encounter.”

These experiences for future optometrists are priceless. The State’s student performance reviews show they are ready for employment day one after graduation. SUNY College of Optometry also hires alums to work at the college’s different optometry subspecialties, such as advanced care for the elderly, annual vision checks, pediatric eye care, and other optometric care programs.

A love for mobile

Performing documentation tasks away from the office appeals to students and faculty. With NextGen Mobile, they can conveniently sign documents while at home or in transit to work or school.

“This is a dream come true for management because it saves time and eliminates a lot of paperwork,” said Grigoryeva.

Hooked on integration

Students use about 30 eye care devices that are integrated with the EHR. Over time, they learn how the interface saves time during eye examinations with the results readily visible in the EHR. Before they graduate, they appreciate the efficiency of integrated health IT and how it makes their workloads easier.

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Karine Grigoryeva
Clinical Systems Administrator
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HOW CAN WE HELP?

Partner with us at **855-510-6398** or **results@nextgen.com**