

Case Study >>>>

Cardiology Practice Increases Revenue via Improved Documentation and Quality Reporting

In order to improve data management and enhance its reporting capabilities, Cardiovascular Management of Illinois (CMI) needed a state-of-the-art electronic health records (EHR) software solution. As Cathie Biga, President and CEO of CMI, explains, "During our selection process, there were several important considerations. First, we examined the culture and commitment of potential technology partners. Next, we ensured that vendors under consideration fully understood our objectives and could offer an integrated database solution. Finally, we examined whether solutions delivered flexibility in modifying templates to address our unique workflow."

Forging a strong partnership

An internal CMI task force—including both clinical and non-clinical staff—spent 18 months evaluating the options and gaining physician buy-in to the technology transition. This team ranked software features in order of importance, and determined that choosing a combined, seamless EHR and practice management solution was a top priority. This narrowed down the potential partners considerably.

After three customer referral site visits to see the software workflow in action for several major vendors, CMI conducted a financial analysis of its two finalists. Ultimately, CMI chose NextGen Healthcare as its technology partner, deploying its EHR software, enterprise practice management (EPM) software, and image control system (ICS) solution.

Overview

PRACTICE

Cardiovascular Management of Illinois
Chicago, Illinois and suburbs
www.cardiacmgmt.com

PRACTICE PROFILE

Cardiovascular Management of Illinois is the affiliated service corporation of Illinois Heart and Vascular and Cardiovascular Associates. With 48 doctors and 12 locations, the practice works in the following subspecialties: general cardiology, electrophysiology, noninvasive, interventional, peripheral vascular, and heart failure.

BUSINESS PROBLEM

Cardiovascular Management of Illinois sought a technology partner offering an enterprise practice management and electronic health record software solution designed to address its escalating needs for improved data management and enhanced reporting.

SOLUTION

Cardiovascular Management of Illinois chose NextGen Healthcare as its technology partner; deploying its electronic health records software, enterprise practice management software, and image control system solution in order to enhance documentation and quality reporting capabilities while enhancing patient care.

PRODUCT DISTINCTIONS

- Better clinical documentation and coding
- Improved PQRI reporting
- Cardiology-specific content and modules
- Enhanced—and more secure—access to patient data

BENEFITS

- Better documentation for efficiency improvements
- Increased reporting capabilities resulting in \$250,000 in annual reimbursements
- Accelerated collections process
- Enhanced patient care by eliminating missing information
- Reduced transcription costs by as much as \$98,000 annually
- Eliminated note dictation

NEXTGEN
HEALTHCARE INFORMATION SYSTEMS



Upgrading documentation and reporting

Since implementing its NextGen solution, CMI positively transformed its documentation and reporting process for enhanced patient care and reduced costs. The organization is enjoying the following benefits:

Improved documentation

After installing the NextGen system, CMI improved its patient chart access for multiple locations. As Illinois Heart and Vascular's (IHV) non-invasive cardiologist, Dr. Daniel Krauss, explains, "Switching from paper to NextGen® EHR software allowed us to more completely document what we do for patients. Now, we have a ready store of information that is easily accessible in our offices and in hospitals. We can more thoroughly think through a patient's medical problems because the NextGen solution's workflow takes you through a visit step-by-step. There's no more missing information, or lack of information."



"NextGen EHR software allows us to more completely document what we do for patients, and provides a ready store of data."

Biga adds, "By documenting that we're meeting standard benchmarks, we're getting better reimbursement from Medicare. Other practices without an EHR solution were unable to apply for the same reimbursements. Plus, by placing the documentation and calculations within the workflow—and making it all transparent to doctors—clinicians aren't slowed down by dealing with numerous alerts. Our templates allow one quality check at the end of the visit."

Dr. Krauss concludes, "NextGen EHR software allows us to more completely document what we do for patients, and provides a ready store of data. Plus, having the capability to access data at night when I'm on call is a huge efficiency improvement."

Better reporting capabilities

As a result of its improved documentation capabilities, CMI has reported on PQRI (Physician Quality Reporting Initiative) measures for over a year. "There are thousands of benefits. We were 100% compliant for 46 of our 47 providers using 4 CMS indicators (specifically, measures 5, 6, 7 and 8)," comments Biga.

NextGen software helps CMI sort—and report—on data quickly and easily. "When using NextGen Healthcare's cardiology templates, the physician simply documents the visit, and before he or she signs and submits the encounter,

