

Electronic Medical Record (EMR)
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As consumers, we demand access to our bank account information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, no matter where in the world we are at any given time. I expect to have full access to not only my account transaction history, but the ability to have access to my money from absolutely anywhere. After all, it's my money, right? Now consider this... as patients, why do we not demand that same access to our personal health information? Why don't we expect anyone who is taking care of us, no matter where we are in the world or what time of day it is to know that I take a Plavix and Baby Aspirin for my Carotid Artery Disease? Or that I had my appendix removed in 2015? Why are our expectations so vastly different for two integral parts of our lives?

At Hocking Valley Community Hospital we are launching a new electronic medical record (Epic) that will propel Hocking County closer to living in a world where this is possible. What is an electronic medical record? It is a digital equivalent of your paper medical records. Each time you visit your medical provider or hospital, you create a piece of information about your health and visit that is physically added to your medical chart.

By implementing an EMR, your patient data can be tracked by multiple healthcare providers all over the world. If you live in Hocking County and are a patient of Hocking Valley Community Hospital or Hocking Valley Medical Group, when you travel out of state your record will now go with you and be available should you have an unexpected medical emergency. If you're in an auto accident and become unconscious, this can be critical and even life saving if your provider needs to know your allergies, what medications you currently take and what prior health issues you may have.

A large part of the Epic platform is "MyChart". MyChart is used by patients to track their health, communicate with their clinicians and health care teams, review test results, and much more. There is even an app you can download to your smartphone so that you can have instant access to your personal medical information.

Don't overlook the importance of Epic to you as a patient. Be sure to activate your MyChart account. The amazing thing is, that over 56% of the population already has an Epic record and the MyChart app is the most popular downloaded health app on the market.

HVCH is jumping into the electronic health world with both feet by implementing Epic. We are giving our patients the opportunity to take charge of their medical information in much of the same way our consumer expectations transformed the banking industry. Studies have shown that when physicians can access comprehensive patient information electronically, when they collaborate on patient care and are supported by data analytics, and when they follow evidence based guidelines, the likelihood of their patients dying from a heart attack decreases by as much as 30%! This makes a lot of sense when you think about it. No longer will a healthcare

provider have to rely on the memory of a man in his eighties to tell him what kind of medications he is taking and the exact dosages.

It's exciting to think that ten years from now, my eight year old daughter will likely not remember a world without electronic access to her important medical information. It will be one of those "When I was your age" stories I will tell her about carrying around a slip of notebook paper in my purse with all of my medications and vaccination history on it and she will laugh at the absurdity of it.

At HVCH we are paving the way to give you as patients the best access to your medical information and the opportunity to successfully manage your health. We are changing the course of healthcare as we know it.