



CDC 2009 Immunization Schedule

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has published an updated immunization schedule for children, adolescents, adults and specific groups.

CDC has recommended significant changes in the 2009 immunization schedule which is available at:

www.cdc.gov/vaccines

Current PrimaryData Specials

- Purchase **SpringCharts EHR** with integrated SpringScripts e-Prescribing before April 1st and we will pay the first year subscription fee for every prescriber in your practice – a **\$750 value per prescriber!** See www.primarydatacorp.com/springmedical.htm for more information on SpringCharts.
- **Samsung 19" widescreen** LCD monitor, fast 5ms response, 8000:1 dynamic contrast, 1440x900 resolution, DVI/VGA input, 90 degree tilt for \$150 through February 28th.
- **Dell Vostro 220 SlimTower** with Vista Business (XP downgrade license), 3GB memory, 250GB hard drive, 20" widescreen display, 1 year basic limited warranty, next business day on-site Dell service for \$475 through February 28th.
- **Fujitsu FI-5110C** color duplex document scanner for \$695 through February 28th.
- **e-Prescribing options to fit your practice** – integrated to EHR, practice management and document imaging solutions or standalone. See www.primarydatacorp.com/ePrescribe.htm for details.
- **PQRI information and resources** – available at www.primarydatacorp.com/PQRI.htm.

Call **720-226-9270** for details or answers to your healthcare technology questions and needs.

If you wish to stop your subscription to PrimaryNews, please send an email with the subject "Stop" to news@primarydatacorp.com.



Please consider the environment before printing this document.

PrimaryNews Issue 04 January-February 2009

PrimaryData

Practical care for your practice.

8756 Dover Circle
Arvada, CO 80005-1584
720.226.9279 phone
866.852.4731 fax
www.primarydatacorp.com

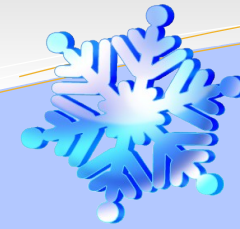
Issue

04

January - February
2009

Healthcare
Technology
News and
Products

PrimaryNews



This issue

- 2009 Healthcare Challenges **p1**
- PQRI in 2009 **p2**
- Dragon NaturallySpeaking **p2**
- Best HealthTechnology Payoffs **p3**
- Tech Q&A, Trends, Picks **p3**
- CDC Immunization Schedule **p4**
- Current Specials **p4**

PrimaryView

Congress is currently debating adding money for health information technology (HIT) in the 2009 economic stimulus package. We believe those funds need to be allocated to interoperability standards for HIT systems and for incentives for the use of beneficial technology. Standards should be vendor-neutral to allow the market to create the products that benefit all.

Practices and patients will benefit from interoperable systems that share medical records, prescription histories, lab results, clinical notes and other medical information and data.

Standards are not only needed to protect patient privacy but to ensure that patient data can be safely and efficiently shared and used by their care givers.

Accountability for funds allocated to HIT must be measured to determine benefits and costs, while insuring that they contribute to the improvement of the quality of US healthcare.

2009 Healthcare Challenges

There are several major challenges as well as opportunities in 2009 for healthcare technology. President Barack Obama has highlighted areas of healthcare that he believes can address quality and costs. The 111th Congress is addressing healthcare technology within the 2009 Economic Recovery Act which is currently being debated within the House and Senate.

Economic Downturn

The number of people with high-deductible health plans or health savings accounts rose to 6.1 million in 2008 according to an annual census conducted by America's Health Insurance Plans.

With greater patient responsibility for their medical bills comes greater potential to harm a practice's cash flow. Our current economy is causing some patients to think twice about their medical visits.

Knowing the details of a patient's benefits, copayment amounts and deductibles at the time of a visit can help your practice better inform the patient before, and collect at, the time of service. Practices should provide patients information on financial policies, including payment expectations and payment plans. Healthcare technology solutions with features that address these needs will benefit your practice even more in 2009.

Incentive Programs

In 2009 CMS is offering a 2% incentive for use of a certified e-Prescribing solution. There is also a 2% incentive for PQRI reporting in 2009.

Read inside this issue for more information on PQRI and e-Prescribing.

2009 Healthcare Technology Legislation

The 2009 Economic Recovery bill currently being debated has several areas that tie to investments in healthcare technology:

- Incentives for physicians to use an EHR;
- State funds to promote interoperable EHRs;
- EHR education programs for clinicians;
- Healthcare technology grant, loan programs;
- Funding for a National Health Information Network (NHIN).

From the current legislation wording a review of the financial impact of using a certified EHR along with the impact on work flow and patient care may require increased attention in 2009.

For details on the 2009 Economic recovery bill:

<http://waysandmeans.house.gov/media/pdf/110/sbill.pdf>

ICD-10 Implementation... Postponed!

The implementation of ICD-10 was headed to be a major challenge for practices in 2009. The good news: HHS has moved the deadline two years up to October 1, 2013 for moving all coding to ICD-10. The 5010 electronic filing requirement has moved to January 1, 2012.

Best wishes for a healthy, happy and a prosperous 2009 to you, your practice and your family from PrimaryData.

PQRI in 2009

There are 153 PQRI Quality Measures in place for 2009 and seven Measure Groups to choose from for reporting. PQRI reporting can be done through a practice's claims processing or through a PQRI certified registry

PQRI began in 2007, yet CMS has never provided any clear-cut answers on why physicians were unsuccessful in reporting on measures during the first year of the PQRI program,

Feedback reports and bonus payments were not disseminated until seven months after the reporting period ended, making it even more important that practice's understand PQRI measures and reporting methods to best participate.

The Practicing Physicians Advisory Council (PPAC) recently recommended that physicians participating in the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) should get real-time access to data to make sure they're accurately reporting on PQRI measures.

PQRI should and can be easier. PrimaryData can assist your participation in PQRI by reviewing which Quality Measures or Measure Groups are best for your practice to use to report on/ We can assist in setting up procedures and processes to track and report PQRI data.

For more details, tools and information, visit our PQRI webpage at: www.primarydatacorp.com/PQRI.htm

Keep your practice's data safe throughout 2009 and have a disaster recovery plan in place.



Dragon NaturallySpeaking 10 (DNS) speech recognition software allows for a more detailed, accurate and cost-effective way to do business, reducing the hours spent reviewing medical records, and increasing the amount of time available for patient care.

DNS comes in Standard, Preferred, Professional and Medical versions. The Medical version incorporates medical vocabularies covering nearly 80 medical specialties and subspecialties and includes EMR support.

DNS runs on Windows XP, 2000 and Vista. It requires 512MB of RAM and 1GB of free hard-drive space. You'll also need a noise-canceling headset or microphone, a sound card, and a DVD drive.

Installation is straight forward and training DNS to your voice is much easier and quicker than prior versions.

The more you use DNS the better it performs as you correct errors and add your own terms to its vocabulary.

A variety of voice recorders can be used with DNS 10 to transcribe your voice with support for MP3, WAV, and WMA audio files. You can play back sound files later for transcription.

Overall, the best healthcare technology tool available for using your voice.

DNS natural-language commands allow you to start your e-mail application and create an e-mail to Dr. Jones by saying "Send an e-mail to Dr. Jones".

Highlighted features for DNS 10 and DNS Medical include:

- **Increased speed.** Words appear much faster on your screen; DNS 10 "wakes up" faster from asleep state.
- **Increased accuracy.** A reduction in word errors; up to 20% more accurate than v9.
- Use with many Windows programs.
- Better accent support than in previous versions.
- Integration with Dictaphone mics and Bluetooth headsets.
- New Web/Windows shortcuts.
- DragonTemplates. Automate form filling by adding fields in dictation templates.
- Medical 10 terminology formatting improvements. "HPI" can appear as "History of Present Illness" or "HPI."
- Medical 10 includes the ability for 3rd party transcription, utilizing the transcriptionist's user profile, to correct and save changes to the original's profile.

Warning for DNS Preferred and Professional users: Dictation with DNS is disabled in a number of EMR programs, to force upgrading to Medical 10. Carefully weigh upgrade to 10's features versus using DNS 9.

Dragon NaturallySpeaking 10 can be as beneficial a health care technology investment for your practice as e-Prescribing and digital storage. (See article on left.)

For more information and to take the Typing Challenge go to: www.nuance.com.

Give us a call if you need help with healthcare technology solutions for your practice.

HL7 releases new guides

Standards developer HL7 has released four new guides for the exchange of healthcare information as well as other guides that are open for comments, ranging from EHR interoperability to quality reporting. Guides are available at: www.hl7.org

Wii Hospitalizes 10 per Week in Britain

Wii-related injuries are popping up on shoulders, knees and wrists. Doctors in Britain have created a video to warn people of those dangers.

Britain has seen a 100% increase in complaints of "Wii-itis", caused by sudden movements, resulting in tendon stretching or tearing. The Wii could be causing lifelong injuries, leading to rheumatism or arthritis.

This years introduction of Wii-Fit, there may cause an even greater increase in "Wii-Knee".

Best Healthcare Technology Payoffs

Tough economic times call for even more serious review of healthcare technology purchases. Here are two technology investments that are easy to implement, can be built on and integrated, and quickly contribute to a practice's bottom line.

#1 e-Prescribing

Estimates are that the Medicare bonus program for e-Prescribing could yield an additional \$1,700-\$3,500 a year per provider.

Potentially the biggest payoff for providers who e-Prescribe is the reduction in time and expense from handling patient prescription refill requests. Patients will need to be re-educated on contacting their pharmacy for prescription refill requests. Pharmacies can then forward electronic refill requests, which are easily reviewed and approved, denied or modified and sent electronically back to the pharmacy for processing.

e-Prescribing systems can also save patients money by allowing providers to check the relative cost of co-payments for generic, formulary and nonformulary drugs in a patient's health plan with patient consent.

e-Prescribing systems are available within EHRs, practice management systems, document retrieval systems, and as a stand-alone solution. For more information visit:

www.primarydatacorp.com/ePrescribe.htm

#2 Digital Storage

By transforming patient charts into digital files, using best practices to manage patient information, and integration of advanced document capture and retrieval technologies practices can:

- Quickly retrieve and share records.
- Reduce costs for office and offsite storage filing and retrieval.
- Manage active/inactive medical records, claims, statements, enrollment forms, EOBs, and other documents and forms.
- Protect patient privacy.

Physicians and staff spend a tremendous amount of time maintaining paper-based patient records. Digital storage gives physicians better access to data that can help them prevent, diagnose, and treat disease as well as helping manage their financials.

Forms processing can be integrated to better access and store all of the practice's former paper-based documents. For information on digital storage solutions visit:

www.primarydatacorp.com/drs.htm

Q&A Technology Tips

Q: What is Web 2.0 and how does it fit with healthcare?

A: The term "Web 2.0" seems to suggest a new version of the World Wide Web which it is not. Web 2.0 is tied to changes in the ways developers and end-users use web technology and web design that aim to enhance creativity, communications, secure information sharing, and collaboration. Examples include hosted services, social-networking sites, podcasting (audio feeds), video sharing sites, wikis, and blogs.

Web 2.0 is being used for new interactions between patients and providers.

People are sharing health experiences and learning from others with similar conditions through online communities with patients posting feedback on their treatments and providers. Some patients are beginning to use web tools to take responsibility for managing their own health status. Microsoft and Google are offering hosted personal health records (PHR). Hosted practice management and EMR applications are gaining popularity.

Healthcare providers are finding that active engagement of their patients can enhance the quality and reach of their services. More are now beginning to use the benefits of Web 2.0 to build their practices, especially those who personally use Web 2.0.

EYE ON IT Current Trends

Palm Pre

People, events, information and more.



The Palm Pre features a large 3.1-inch, 320-by-480-pixel touchscreen with a full QWERTY keyboard that slides out from below. It weighs 4.8 oz - shorter but thicker than the iPhone 3G.

It has GPS, stereo Bluetooth, 8GB of built-in storage, a full web browser, a multiplatform IM application, music and video players and built-in tasks, notes, photo gallery, and calculator apps, and has a 3rd party development kit for future applications.

Available through Sprint this Spring 2009. For further details: www.palm.com/ or www.sprint.com/pre.

SOFTWARE Monthly Pick Google SketchUp 7

Know someone looking to create 3D models of just about anything they like? Google SketchUp gives them the tools to express themselves. You can get up to speed with SketchUp in just a few minutes, although there are dozens of video tutorials, a Help Center and a worldwide community for additional learning and support.

You can build models from scratch, or you can download what you need. There's no limit to what you can create with Google SketchUp.

Available for free at: <http://sketchup.google.com>

Complimentary PQRI practice review: Call 720-226-9270 to schedule your PQRI consultation.