



HEALTH CARE TECHNOLOGY: WHY DOES IT MATTER?

The use of advanced information technology has a transformational impact on the way medicine is practiced. Through Advocate Physician Partners' Clinical Integration Program, physicians are required or incented to adopt new technologies to enhance communication of critical information, drive performance and, ultimately, improve patient outcomes above community norms. Table 1 illustrates the array of advanced technologies adopted by Advocate Physician Partners.

Year	Technological Advancement
2004	High Speed Internet Access in Physician Offices
2005	Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)
2006	Computerized Physician Order Entry (CPOE)
2007	Electronic Intensive Care Unit (eICU [®]) Usage
2008	Electronic Prescribing
2009	CIRRIS Point-of-Care [®]
	Electronic Medical Records Pilot
2010	e-Learning Physician Continuing Education Modules
	Electronic Medical Record Roll-Out

Table 1. Advancing Technology Adoption

HIGH SPEED INTERNET ACCESS IN PHYSICIAN OFFICES

In 2004, consistent with physician practices nationally, only 22 percent of Advocate Physician Partners physician members had a high speed Internet connection in their offices. Through the Internet, physicians have quick and easy access to patient disease registries, patient assessment and education tools and other electronic practice supports at the point of care in their offices. Since 2005, high speed Internet access has been a requirement of membership in Advocate Physician Partners.

ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE (EDI)

Electronic submission of claims reduces associated administrative costs and ultimately results in savings to the health care industry. Since 2005, Advocate Physician Partners has required physician members to submit claims for its HMO patients through electronic data interchange (EDI). Beginning in 2006, incentives were provided to physicians who also used EDI for fee-for-service billings to insurance companies. Compliance rose to nearly 100 percent by 2007. In 2008, claims submission through EDI became a requirement of membership in Advocate Physician Partners.

COMPUTERIZED PHYSICIAN ORDER ENTRY (CPOE)

Through the use of CareNet and CareConnection, Advocate Physician Partners physicians have access to a clinical data repository that provides physicians current information about their patients within Advocate hospitals, laboratories, outpatient facilities and ambulatory settings. The technology includes a state-of-the-art Computerized Physician Order Entry function that studies have shown dramatically improves the safety of hospitalized patients. In 2009, 95 percent of Advocate Physician Partners physicians proficiently used the technologies.

ELECTRONIC INTENSIVE CARE UNIT (eICU®) USAGE

The Advocate Health Care eICU® program connects the 15 adult intensive care units across eight of Advocate's hospitals and enables intensivist physicians working from a central command center to provide clinical oversight to patients around the clock. Advocate Physician Partners' use of the eICU® at the highest levels allows the critical care physicians and staff at the eICU® command center to instantly modify the patient's care plan as the need arises as well as implement key protocols that improve patient outcomes and reduce complications. Since 2004, Advocate Physician Partners physicians' use of the eICU® at the highest levels increased to nearly 100 percent. In 2008, use of eICU® became a requirement of membership.

ELECTRONIC PRESCRIBING

Electronic prescribing is slowly becoming the standard of practice in the United States, with Medicare beginning to accelerate the adoption of the technology through certain payment incentives. In 2008, Advocate Physician Partners made an affordable electronic prescribing system available to its physician members. The use of an electronic prescribing system improves patient safety by providing information on drug interactions, allergies, dosage levels and formulary details. Information is maintained electronically and allows physicians to send prescriptions directly to the pharmacy. Electronic prescribing supports the physicians of Advocate Physician Partners in reducing medical errors and improving patient safety.

CIRRIS POINT-OF-CARE®

CIRRIS Point-of-Care® was implemented in 2009. The online application integrates three critical functions that were previously accessed through standalone applications: patient registries, medication prescribing data and a comprehensive results reporting system. CIRRIS enables physicians to

track their progress in the Clinical Integration Program and make adjustments throughout the year to improve their performance. The ability to access this data in real-time and through one system allows the physicians to efficiently manage large patient populations while following evidence-based protocols for better health outcomes.

e-LEARNING PHYSICIAN CONTINUING EDUCATION MODULE

In 2009, Advocate Physician Partners launched the first in a planned series or curriculum of electronic learning modules for physician continuing education. The Advocate Physician Partners' e-University provides the physician with 24/7 access and a fast-paced format to enhance the learning experience. The e-University includes competency testing to support the retention of critical information. This advancement in technology assists the physician in meeting the requirements of the Physician Roundtable initiative described on page 31 of this Report.

ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORD (EMR)

Widespread use of electronic medical records has the potential to improve patient safety and efficiencies of care by sharing patient data across providers. To underscore its importance, the federal government has included a provision in the 2009 Federal Stimulus Bill to encourage "meaningful use" of an EMR by all physicians by 2014. In 2009, Advocate Physician Partners launched a pilot to implement a full EMR and Practice Management System in the offices of its physician members in private practice. Through a partnership with a major vendor, Advocate Physician Partners developed an EMR program to support the physician practice by improving office flow and patient outcomes. In 2010, Advocate Physician Partners will begin the major roll-out of the EMR, reaching hundreds of Advocate Physician Partners physician practices with the new technology by 2011.