



Electronic Health Records: Frequently Asked Questions

What is EHR?

EHR stands for Electronic Health Records, you may have also heard the term Electronic Medical Records as well. EHR refers to a category of computer software designed for medical practices. This computer software assists our medical team in securely organizing your charts electronically rather than with paper. Having electronic patient records allows your healthcare team to review all of your health information quickly and efficiently and to check for allergies and potential drug interactions. This electronic record will be maintained in our offices similarly to your paper chart.

What kind of information will be entered into the EHR?

We will be working with you to update your recent health history. This type of information collected would include: any allergies you may have, any medications you may take and any current complaints or concerns. Your blood pressure, pulse and weight will be recorded, along with your information from your healthcare team relating to your examination. Key points are keeping track of chronic problems and using the record for all health encounters (e.g. telephone calls and acute visits) with our offices.

Since access to my record will be easier will my information be kept private?

Yes. We will continue to follow strict health information protection guidelines. These HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) guidelines are required and enforced by the federal government. Your information will only be accessed through a secure computer and only the healthcare team assisting in your care.

How will my information be used?

We will use your health information in the same, safe manner as it is used now. The information is only used by your healthcare team in providing care for you.

Now that my information will be on the computer, what happens if you lose power?

We have a back up system, which saves all of your information at regular intervals. Because of this backup system, your information will not be lost should we lose power. If the power is out for an extended period of time, we will refer to the paper system temporarily.

What system are we using?

The Electronic Health Records system we are using is called NextGen Healthcare Information System. Their EHR system works with our current scheduling system. For more information about NextGen, visit their website at nextgen.com. The site provides information about the company, their systems and the many awards they have received for their technology.