Group Practices Continue to Use Paper Records

BY MARY ELLEN SCHNEIDER Senior Writer

Most group practices are still using paper medical records, according to preliminary results from a survey by the Medical Group Management Association.

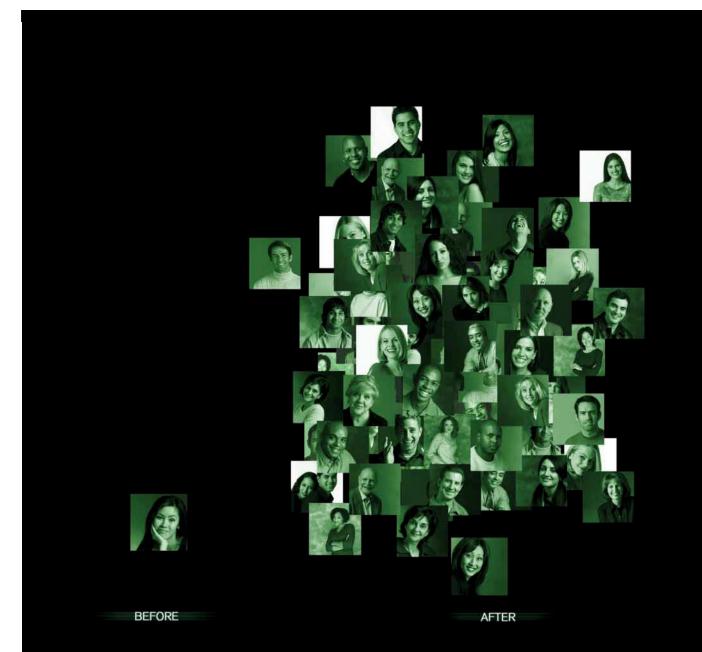
"Paper is still the dominant mode of data collection," William F. Jessee, M.D., president and CEO of the Medical Group Management Association (MGMA) said in a webcast sponsored by the group. But the scale is tipping, he said. About 20% of group practices report that they have an electronic health record of some kind. Another 8% have a dictation/transcription system for physician notes, combined with a document imaging management system for information received on paper.

"We're seeing a steady movement toward a paperless office," Dr. Jessee said.

The preliminary findings are based on responses from about 1,000 group practices that responded to an electronic questionnaire. The second stage of the survey will include mailing more than 16,000 printed questionnaires to a sample of group practices across the country.

The survey is part of a contract from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to MGMA's Center for Research and the University of Minnesota. The purpose is to provide a baseline measure of the use of information technologies in medical groups. Challenges in transitioning to an elec-

tronic health record include knowing which



Finally, an aesthetic laser that can also transform your practice.

Whether you are trying to grow your practice, add variety to your day or find a new way to help patients, offering light based aesthetic solutions has been the answer for thousands of physicians throughout the world. Laserscope has allowed these users to offer the most popular aesthetic treatments patients demand more quickly and easily than most thought possible. With more than two decades of experience, Laserscope provides comprehensive clinical training, practice management tools, as well as support from a nationwide team of service professionals. So, whether you choose to launch your aesthetic career with our flagship Gemini dual wavelength laser or with any of our laser or intense pulsed light devices, Laserscope will support you. Laserscope can help.



Gemini Laser System gives you all the tools you need in just one system

LASERSCOPE " The Power of Green. product to buy, how to go about buying it, and how to implement the system, said David Brailer, M.D., national health information technology coordinator for the Department of Health and Human Services. "Many groups stumble at every point

along the way," Dr. Brailer said. The private industry is working to cre-

ate a voluntary certification process for electronic health record products.

The American Health Information Management Association, the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society, and the National Alliance for Health Information Technology have formed a nonprofit group—the Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology—that is planning to pilot a first-step certification process this summer.

HHS has already asked the industry for comments on how to design a mechanism that would allow physicians and other health care providers to share information across the health care system.

The agency is now reviewing the more than 500 responses on how to address the legal, economic, privacy, and technical concerns involved in creating an interoperable system, Dr. Brailer said.

INDEX OF Advertisers

American Cancer Society Colon Cancer	33
Cynosure Apogee Elite	12
Forest Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Namenda	17-21
Campral	47-50
Combunox	59-62
Lexapro	74a-74b
Hoffman-La Roche Inc.	
Corporate	45
Janssen Pharmaceutica Products, L.P.	
Reminyl	55-56
King Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	
Sonata	14a-14b
Laserscope	
Gemini Laser System	76
MaNail Nutritianala LLC	
McNeil Nutritionals, LLC Splenda	11
*	
Merck & Co., Inc. Vytorin	23-24
Zetia	23-24 30a-30b
Fosamax	50a-50d, 51
Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation	
Enablex	29-30
Diovan	79-80
Novo Nordisk Inc.	
NovoLog	6a-6b
Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceutical, Inc.	
Topamax	69-73
P&G Prilosec OTC	9
	9
Pfizer Inc.	
Lipitor Viagra	3-4 13
Caduet	40-43
Zoloft	53-54
TAP Pharmaceuticals Inc.	
Prevacid	26-28
Santarus, Inc. Zegerid	66a-66d
Sepracor Inc.	
Lunesta	35-38
Syneron	
CME	57
Wyeth Pharmaceuticals Inc.	
Effexor XR	64-66

© 2005 Laserscope. Gemini and the Laserscope logo are trademarks of Laserscope. All rights reserved.

To find out more, log on at www.laserscope.com/FPN or call (800) 356-7600