

# How to Select an EHR for Your Small Medical Practice



When you work for a small medical practice, the vendors you select can drastically impact your day-to-day operations and your bottom line. One of the most important pieces of technology you'll ever deploy is your Electronic Health Records (EHR) software. When choosing an EHR for your independent practice, you'll want to consider how the solution accommodates your workflows and clientele. Private practices face unique challenges that larger hospitals and healthcare entities don't encounter as frequently. This comprehensive buyer's guide produced by Benchmark Solutions aims to assist healthcare providers in choosing the right software solution that meets their specific needs and requirements.

With the ever-evolving healthcare landscape, selecting the right EHR software is crucial for small medical practices to ensure quality patient care and minimize errors. We hope that this guide helps you identify what criteria to weigh when purchasing a new EHR platform so you can enhance patient care and streamline administrative tasks.

Watch our video to learn more:  
**Top Features of Benchmark EHR**

# The Unique Challenges Small Medical Practices Face

One of the biggest hurdles is finding technology solutions that support lower patient volume and a smaller team. EHR software companies typically target larger organizations, leaving small practices with fewer options that may not fully address their requirements. Below, we'll explore some of the top challenges we hear providers express when choosing an EHR for their independent practice.

EHR software can be extremely expensive. Affordability is a significant concern for small practices. Budget limitations often make it difficult to invest in robust EHR systems. Small practices need a solution that offers a reasonable price point without compromising on essential features and functionality.

Out-of-the-box solutions don't always allow for enough flexibility. Customization is equally important as small practices have unique workflows and requirements that may not align with the standardized features offered by many EHR software providers.

Implementation can be daunting. Another challenge is the smooth transition to an EHR system. Small practices often have limited staffing, and implementing a new software can be time-consuming and resource-intensive. [Nearly 63% of physicians are reporting signs of burnout](#), with providers struggling to find work/life balance as one of the leading causes. Implementing an EHR should help physicians take back their time — not add to the to-do list. It is crucial for these practices to find an EHR software that offers seamless integration with their existing infrastructure and minimal disruptions to their daily operations.

Navigating changing regulations is difficult. With new forms of compliance and regulations constantly being rolled out, small practices need to work with vendors that are ahead of the curve. Being hit with fees for not meeting federal regulations can create a substantial blow to an independent practice's bottom line.

Even though these hurdles can create friction, it is essential for small practices to find an EHR software that overcomes these challenges and supports their operational and clinical requirements.



# EHR Features to Consider



Above all else, the right EHR streamlines administrative tasks and enhances the patient experience.

If you're in the market for a new EHR, you'll want to consider time-saving features that allow you to focus on providing excellent patient care. While EHRs are extremely commonplace, not all software is created equally. We've compiled a list of the top features you should look for in your EHR.



## Progress Notes

Progress notes play a crucial role in helping patients achieve their health goals, allowing healthcare providers to document and track a patient's progress throughout their treatment journey. These notes are essential for effective communication and collaboration among healthcare providers, improving patient care outcomes.

One of the key features of EHR software is the ability to easily access and update patient records. With just a few clicks, healthcare providers can retrieve detailed information about a patient's medical history, medication list, and past treatments. This quick access to patient records helps providers make informed decisions and deliver personalized care.



## Code Recommendations and Billing Integrations

Medical billing is notoriously complex — but features like code recommendations and billing integrations can help make financial tasks a bit more straightforward. These features streamline the billing processes and improve financial efficiency for healthcare providers.

With code recommendations, EHR software provides automated suggestions in real-time for accurate medical codes to be used during the billing process. This ensures that proper codes are selected, minimizing the chances of errors and denials. Additionally, they help in compliance with insurance and regulatory requirements, resulting in timely and appropriate reimbursements.

The integration of billing software with EHR systems further enhances financial efficiency. It allows for seamless transfer of patient data, eliminating the need for manual entry and reducing the risk of data duplication or errors. This integration ensures that billing information is accurate and up-to-date, leading to faster claim processing and reduced administrative tasks.



## Specialty Support

Specialty-specific software plays a crucial role in the success and efficiency of small medical practices. However, the options available in the market for specialty-specific software can often be limited. This can pose a challenge for medical practices that cater to disciplines such as cardiology, dermatology, nephrology, mental health, and other specialties.

Having specialty-specific software tailored to the distinct needs of a particular medical discipline can greatly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of specialty practices. These software solutions are designed to address the unique requirements, workflows, and documentation needs of each specialty. This ensures that healthcare providers can focus on delivering quality patient care without being burdened by generic software that may not meet their specific needs.



## Templates

When selecting EHR software for a small medical practice, the importance of templates cannot be overlooked. Templates provide a standardized format for documenting patient information and medical data, resulting in improved efficiency and accuracy.

One significant advantage of using templates is the simplification of data reporting and analysis. EHR software that offers a variety of ready-made reporting templates allows for tailored reports to track clinic performance. These templates can be customized to gather specific data, such as patient demographics, appointment scheduling, medical histories, and billing processes. By utilizing these templates, small medical practices can easily generate comprehensive reports that provide insights into various aspects of clinic operations.



## Integration with Practice Management Software

Integration with practice management software is crucial for optimizing administrative workflows and improving service quality in a small medical practice. By combining electronic health records software with practice management (PM) tools, healthcare providers can streamline various administrative tasks, leading to increased efficiency and improved patient care.

Integrated EHR software solutions enable seamless communication between different departments within a practice, reducing the need for manual data entry and minimizing the chances of errors. Patient records, appointment scheduling, and billing processes can be consolidated into one system, eliminating the need for multiple software platforms and reducing the risk of data discrepancies.

With practice management software integration, small medical practices can enhance service quality by gaining a comprehensive understanding of their operations. These integrated solutions offer extensive reporting capabilities, allowing clinicians and administrators to track practice performance, identify bottlenecks, and make data-driven decisions to drive continuous improvement. By generating detailed reports on key metrics such as patient outcomes, patient satisfaction, and practice revenue, healthcare providers can identify areas for enhancement and implement targeted changes to optimize service quality.





## Patient Portal

In today's digital age, patient portals have become an essential component of EHR systems for small medical practices. Portals provide patients with easy access to their medical records, online appointment scheduling, and secure communication with their healthcare providers. A portal won't always directly connect to EHRs – but the ability to offer a portal option for your patients can boost engagement and lead to better outcomes.

### Online Patient Records Accessibility

Patient portals play a crucial role in EHR systems by providing patients with online access to their medical records. Gone are the days of sifting through piles of documents and searching for specific medical records. With just a few clicks, providers and patients alike can easily view their test results, immunization history, and medication lists. This streamlined access to medical records enhances efficiency and eliminates the risk of lost or misplaced documents.

But the benefits go beyond eliminating paperwork. Patient portals also play a vital role in engaging patients in their healthcare journey. By providing direct access to their medical records, patients are empowered to take an active role in managing their health. They can review their treatment plans, medications, and previous medical history at their convenience.

Moreover, patient portals encourage patient engagement and communication with healthcare providers. Patients can easily communicate with their medical team by sending secure messages, asking questions, and receiving timely responses. This clear and open communication promotes better collaboration between patients and providers, leading to improved care coordination and patient outcomes.

### **Resource Hub for Patients**

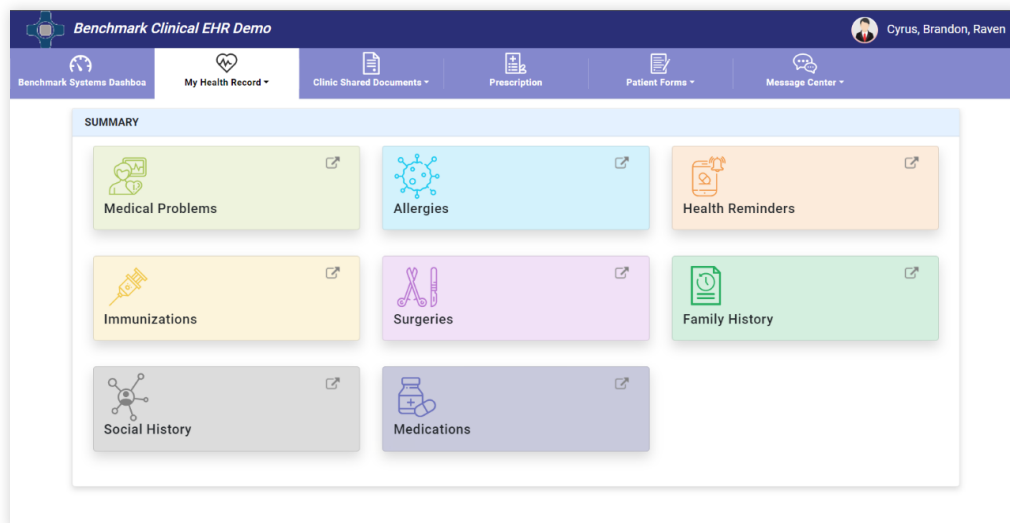
A resource hub for patients is an invaluable addition to any EHR system, providing patients with a centralized platform to access a wealth of information on medical conditions and up-to-date knowledge. A hub of meaningful use materials can offer a one-stop destination where patients can find a wide range of resources, including articles, videos, and educational materials, curated by healthcare professionals. And by housing this hub within your portal, patients can access these resources from anywhere so long as they have an internet connection. This allows patients to deepen their understanding of medical conditions, treatment options, and preventive measures. By having access to such information, patients can make informed decisions and actively participate in their own healthcare journey.

### **Treatment Plans**

Treatment plans are an essential component of patient care, providing a roadmap for healthcare providers to manage and monitor the treatment of individuals. EHR software offers a comprehensive solution to effectively create and manage treatment plans.

Key components of treatment plans, including diagnosis, prescribed medications, recommended therapies, and follow-up care, can be easily documented within an EHR software system. This enables healthcare providers to efficiently update and maintain accurate treatment plans, ensuring that all relevant information is readily accessible. By having a centralized platform, healthcare providers can easily collaborate and share treatment plans with other members of the care team, promoting continuity and coordination of care.

When patients can access their treatment plans via a patient portal, they're more empowered to actively participate in their own care. Thorough documentation can also reduce time spent addressing questions patients may have about their treatment plans.



Watch our video to learn more:  
**Benchmark Systems Patient Portal Demo**



## Ease of Implementation

At this point, there's no denying that choosing the right EHR is a major decision – but one roadblock providers face is implementation. Implementing new software can often be a daunting task, especially for smaller practices with limited resources and IT support. However, with dedicated support staff, the implementation process can and should be relatively simple and straightforward.

Your new EHR provider will work with you every step of the way as you get your new system up and running. During implementation, you can customize workflows and templates to your liking. At Benchmark Solutions, we designed our implementation process to be user-friendly and efficient. From initial data migration to staff training, we partner with our new clients to ensure no detail is overlooked.



# How Benchmark EHR Stacks Up

Benchmark Solutions offers software and services that help providers save time and boost patient engagement — and we're huge advocates for small medical practices.

## 1. Feature-Rich with Everything You Need

Benchmark EHR software is the perfect solution for small medical practices looking for a feature-rich and comprehensive system. With our wide array of functionalities, we offer everything you need to efficiently manage your patients' medical information.

- ☑ Fitted with time-saving workflows
- ☑ HIPAA-compliant
- ☑ Automatic coding recommendations
- ☑ Configured for 40 practice specialties and counting
- ☑ Fully customizable

## 2. Five-Star Customer Support

At Benchmark Solutions, we understand the importance of providing five-star customer support. That's why we go above and beyond to ensure that our clients receive the assistance and guidance they need.

Our dedicated customer service line is available to address any questions or concerns you may have. Our knowledgeable and friendly support staff are always ready to provide prompt and helpful solutions to any technical issues or challenges you may encounter.

But our customer support doesn't stop there. We also offer ongoing training and assistance to help you make the most of our EHR software. Our team will work closely with you and your staff to ensure that you are fully equipped to utilize all the features and functionalities of our solution effectively.

When it comes to choosing electronic health records software for your small medical practice, customer support is a vital aspect that should not be overlooked. Exceptional customer support can make all the difference in the success and satisfaction of your practice.

### **3. Superb Customization Capabilities**

Our EHR software at Benchmark Solutions offers superb customization capabilities specifically designed for small medical practices. We understand that every practice is unique, and it is essential to tailor the software to meet the specific needs and preferences of each user.

With Benchmark EHR, practice staff have the flexibility to modify templates, workflows, and user interfaces to create a personalized experience. This means that you can customize the software to match your practice's existing processes and terminology, ensuring a seamless transition and minimal disruption to your daily operations. Plus, our support team is here to assist you if there's a configuration you need help building.

By tailoring the software to your exact requirements, you can maximize efficiency and productivity in your practice. You can create custom templates for clinical notes, treatment plans, and administrative tasks, ensuring that the software aligns with your unique practice workflow.

Ready to Take Back Your Time?

Schedule a Free Consultation Today



✉ [HelloHealthcare@BenchmarkSystems.com](mailto:HelloHealthcare@BenchmarkSystems.com)

☎ 800-779-0902

📍 1467 Crossings Centre Dr.  
Forest, VA 24551