



Medical Staff

Randy Webb, MD
Family Practice

Michelle Hellwig NP
Family Practice

Darrel Stock DO
Family Practice

Northern Rockies Medical Center
802 Second Street SE, Cut Bank, MT 59427 406-873-2251

Northern Rockies Medical Clinic
226 Ninth Avenue SE, Cut Bank, MT 59427 406-873-5507

Submitted by Patty McDonough
December 20th, 2009

1. Executive Summary

The funding from this award was used to purchase 3 laptop computers and two wireless routers. As of yet, Northern Rockies Medical Center does not have an EMR system. These are the first pieces of equipment purchased by Northern Rockies to implement the beginning stages of our EMR system. Being as we have no EMR system, the nurses will use these computers to access the Web Portal (Medicaid eligibility and health histories) and the Wizard program through the state of Montana. The Wizard is an electronic data bank used to access immunization records of children and adults. At this time the nurses have no computers to access these information sites. They will also be able to access Tech Time which is our scheduling and billing program as well as the internet. We refer many patients to specialists and the internet is a valuable resource to search addresses and phone numbers as well as travel instructions.

The laptops that were purchased are a Dell Latitude E4300. We also purchased two wireless routers to support the computers use.

2. Information needs

The main audiences to benefit from this technology improvement are the nursing staff and the patients. The nursing staff will be able to access Medicaid to view a patient's eligibility, health history, medications and previous providers. They will also be able to access immunization records on the Wizard site in which the state of Montana posts all immunizations for children and adults. This will help to meet the information needs for nurses and doctors. The usual practice is, the nurse has to go to the front of the clinic to have the receptionist research this information. This will help the flow of patients to have updated information quickly. The nurses will also be able to see the current schedule for the provider for the day on the Tech Time system.

3. There has been no training conducted for new audiences.

4. Training on the new computers will take place when they

arrive the end of Dec.

5. The nursing staff attended a demonstration for E Clinical Works as part of a comprehensive search for the appropriate EMR. This demonstration took place in October. We have also researched a few others and will probably use ECW for the clinic.
6. There is no specific data as of yet. The computers will be installed the end of the year. The IT person at this facility had purchased equipment that did not meet the specifications needed so we needed to re-order the laptops. The desired outcomes will be met because when the new EMR system is in place, we will see increased efficiency. Much time is spent searching for paper records. The paper records are capable of errors due to misfiling and improper placement of records. Quality of care will improve when the clinic is more organized and we will have access to records in a timely fashion. NRMCM will have full participation in the Health Information Exchange of Montana (HIEM), which will allow for seamless transmission of patients' electronic health records. For the time being we are limited to Web Portal, Wizard, Tech Time and the internet.
7. The only barriers that were encountered were our lack of knowledge. This facility has not been exposed to EMR so we found it difficult to know just what equipment to purchase. If I were to change anything about the project, I would arrange for informational meetings with additional IT people who are familiar with EMR.
8. The impact of the project on this organization was minimal but successful in the fact that the goals were met. The overall improvement of patient care was the ultimate goal. As previously stated, this equipment is the first purchase towards establishing EMR in this facility. It is greatly appreciated to receive help during these tough economic times.