

EHR Training Platform for Medical Students



While EHRs are tools that physicians use in their work, still many medical students are entering residency unfamiliar with how this technology works. Now a new training programme launched by the American Medical Association is expected to give emerging physicians greater comfort with electronic health record workflows.

In a partnership with the Regenstrief Institute and Indiana University School of Medicine, AMA said the new programme, the Regenstrief EHR Clinical Learning Platform, will be put to work at medical schools nationwide. The platform uses actual data from patients at Indianapolis-based Eskenazi Health, although built-in algorithms ensure that the identities of patients are protected.

The technology "allows physicians in training to virtually care for patients with multiple complex health conditions by navigating records, documenting encounters and placing orders within an application similar to the EHRs they will be using in their practices," explained Blaine Takesue, MD, Regenstrief research scientist and assistant professor of clinical medicine at IU School of Medicine. Educators can also create customised content based on their curriculum requirements.

After more than a year of use at IU, the platform has been improved using feedback from students. "We believe this platform will help thousands of students better understand the value of the EHR, as well as help them address important issues pertaining to population health, quality improvement, patient safety and social determinants of health," said Susan Skochelak, MD, the AMA's group vice president for medical education.

The Regenstrief EHR Clinical Learning Platform has already been adopted by UConn School of Medicine and Southern Indiana University School of Nursing. It will next be rolled out at three other schools, including Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University and Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, as well as the University of Idaho WWAMI Medical Education Programme.

As Dr. Takesue noted, "I believe it's important that students think about how the technology is used in patient care, and how they can better influence how it should be used in patient care."

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