

# MAXIMIZING YOUR EMR SYSTEM: A LOOK AT SOME BEST PRACTICES

The electronic medical record (EMR) Best Practices Sharing video provided examples of how your peers have implemented an EMR alert into their system. EMR alerts can range from simple screeners to sophisticated algorithms that account for specific patient criteria. Below are some best practices that can help you get started:

**Identify the issue**

Determine in which pediatric disease states you can help improve the quality of care

**Plan ahead**

Establish what is working with the current workflow and what needs to be reconfigured

**Determine criteria**

Identify what algorithms or criteria you use now and how they can be translated into an EMR alert

**Take the lead**

Establish an internal “champion” for change

**Gain approval**

Enlist internal stakeholder support

**Establish resources**

Determine who can implement the EMR alerts/reminders in your system

**Consider your existing resources**

Determine if there are any additional costs, staff, or other resources needed to help implement an EMR alert

**Provide support**

Train staff members who will use alerts/reminders

**Start small**

Pilot the program with a select group of providers

**Grow the initiative**

Expand the use of alerts to other environments

## Some of the ways you can customize your system include:

- Patient questionnaires or surveys
- ICD-9 or ICD-10 code–based patient identification and medication alerts
- Patient follow-up lists
- Referral templates
- Letters and forms

Now you can start taking steps to maximize the EMR technology in your practice too...because a little reminder can go a long way!