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The Six Lessons of
Electronic Medical
Records: *“I wish I’d known
this before I started my
EMR journey.”*

Kip Webb: Right now, patient data really is in a paper-based world, and not communicated between providers. Electronic medical records have the promise of allowing us to coordinate and integrate care.

Lesson 1: Know what you need, where to get it, and why. [text on screen]

The choice of an electronic medical record should really align with your hospital strategy, and what it is you want to be as a healthcare organisations five or ten years from now.

Lesson 2: Implement an EMR solution that best suits your goals. [text on screen]

You should tie your EMR selection to your overall hospital strategy. If your goal is to improve care within the hospital, then choosing a vendor that will enable you to get it HIMSS stage six is probably sufficient. If on the other hand, your goal is broad-based population care, you need to also have a healthy information exchange capability.

Lesson 3: Have a clear governance model that supports the change. [text on screen]

Most hospitals really struggle with clinical governance. As one is implementing an electronic medical record, having a clear sense with responsible, accountable governance in place, enables the kind of nimble decision making that is requisite for an EMR implementation.

Lesson 4: Standardize your processes to meet your desired outcomes. [text on screen]

Clinical standardization is very hard, but what we've found is: it's worth the journey, and that it will create a safer, more effective, and more efficiently delivered healthcare system.

Lesson 5: Engage with the entire healthcare organization – let them own the change. [text on screen]

Making sure that these are clinician-led, and not IT-led, is the best path to a successful implementation.

Lesson 6: Measure the right things. [text on screen]

It's important, as you're designing the system, to be able to measure those elements that are important for today's world, but also those elements that will be important for tomorrow.

Electronic medical records enable us to deliver more standardized care in a more efficient manner.

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