



Case study: Bel Air Medical

Bel Air, Maryland



Maryland practice appreciates efficiency of EHR

Rena Taddeo is the office manager for Bel Air Medical Associates in Bel Air, Maryland. She works alongside Dr. Syedah Sherry Gilani and Dr. Syed Farid Mahmood, a husband and wife team practicing internal medicine. Taddeo has worked with the doctors since they opened their office 21 years ago, and today there are 9 employees total. The doctors collectively see about 40 patients per day, and half of those are Medicare patients.

Challenge

In 2012, the practice was ready to convert its paper charts to electronic health records (EHR). It was also planning to participate in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Electronic Health Record (EHR) incentive program. This program—a predecessor to the CMS' new Quality Payment Program (QPP)—encourages eligible professionals to implement and demonstrate Meaningful Use (MU) of certified EHR technology to receive incentives. Using EHR technology in a meaningful manner, such as e-Prescribing, sharing information electronically to improve quality of healthcare, and submitting clinical quality measures, helps a practice qualify for these incentives.

Practice quick facts:

2 physicians

40 patients per day

50% Medicare

2012 began using
Quantum EHR

Quantum Solutions:

- eLabs
- ePrescribing
- EHR

“The Quantum EHR customer service has been so outstanding and important to me. They’ve made everything easy.” – *Rena Taddeo*

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Solution

One of Dr. Mahmood's acquaintances had recommended that they look at Quantum EHR. Bel Air Medical Associates was already using Quantum eLabs from Quest Diagnostics, so moving to Quantum EHR seemed like a natural upgrade, since the system would automatically transfer information for patients who had already done lab work with Quest into the EHR. This would save time, as the practice would not have to create new files for all of those patients.

Outcome

Taddeo said that the transition from paper files to the EHR was indeed very easy.

"All our data came over from the lab side," said Taddeo. "It was so efficient—in 24 hours it was there. We had no problems.

"We went through online training and the implementation team was extremely patient, and they continue to be so today. From the very beginning, the customer service has been phenomenal."

The cloud-based EHR can be accessed via iPhone® or iPad®, and Taddeo says the doctors enjoy this mobility, especially when they are working at home. This feature allows them to write prescriptions or check patient labs. But perhaps the biggest improvement to their practice has been the efficiency that the EHR brings.

"Everything is so accessible and there's so much clarity; it's very easy to find a patient's chart," said Taddeo. "Prior to obtaining the EHR, it used to take so long when we needed to retrieve information through the paper records, especially if someone needed a prescription refill. I cannot believe we used to work that way. Now we can immediately fill prescriptions."

Taddeo also appreciates how the system has continually improved over the years.

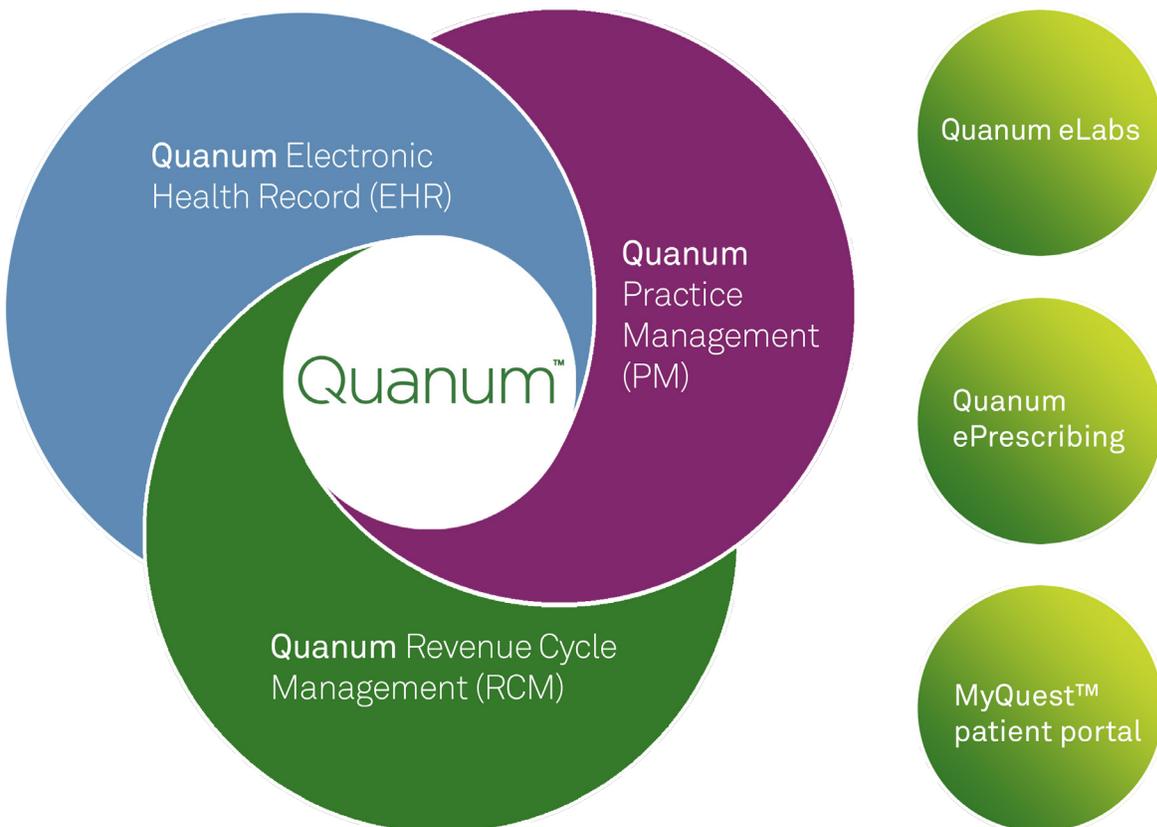
"Whenever we have suggestions or feedback for the help desk about aspects of the EHR that could be improved, we notice they get improved. That has been satisfying."

When the practice reported for MU 2016, it used the Quantum EHR reporting service to help it successfully attest. This fee-based service helps guide a practice through the measures they need to submit.

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“It was great to have someone supporting us, especially because we are a small office and have so many day-to-day responsibilities, and we are by no means experts in meaningful use. It was reassuring to know all of the data related to our attestation would go through smoothly.” – *Rena Taddeo*



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