

2008 North American Healthcare Technology Innovation Award**Infor-Med, Inc.**

The 2008 Frost & Sullivan Healthcare Technology Innovation of the Year Award in healthcare information technology is bestowed upon Infor-Med, Inc. for the company's development of innovative Electronic Medical Record (EMR) software, the Praxis® Electronic Medical Records version 4 featuring the Praxis® EMR Knowledge Exchanger. This employs a unique neural-network technology called "Concept Processing" that does not include inherently limiting template technology. The Praxis® EMR v.4 incorporates all the template-free charting capabilities of earlier versions plus a dynamic new tool that allows physicians to tap into other clinicians' knowledge base.

Company Background

Infor-Med, founded in 1989, pioneered the use of an artificial intelligence technology it called "Concept Processing" to create the Praxis® EMR. The Concept Processing technology "learns" the way a physician practices medicine to continually improve patient documentation, allowing the physician to develop his or her own knowledge base instead of being restricted to a template for his or her electronic medical records.

By incorporating the innovative Knowledge Exchanger, which is part of Praxis® EMR v.4, physicians can instantly benefit from the medical knowledge of their peers while maintaining their own, completely separate knowledge base that self-learns as patient EMRs are added to the system.

Infor-Med is headquartered in California and Praxis® EMR is marketed worldwide with a primary focus in North America, both the U.S. and Canada. Infor-Med's mission has been to make a profound contribution to the practice of medicine while creating an outstanding professional environment for employees, industry representatives, and Praxis® EMR clients. To accomplish this two-fold mission, Infor-Med listened to physician clients to develop an EMR based exclusively on their clinical needs. A team of physicians, software developers, trainers, and support technicians has been assembled to serve the company's thousands of physician-users.

Technology Relevance in the Market Place

With the growth of the population, and the aging of a significant percentage of that population in the U.S., the burden of paper patient files is overwhelming medical care facilities. Adding to the burden of maintaining patient records is the U.S. Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPPA) that addresses the security and privacy of health related data. The Privacy Rule within HIPPA applies to “individually-identifiable health information” that is stored in any form that concerns an individual’s past, present, or future physical or mental health.

The U.S. agency responsible for overseeing HIPPA, Health and Human Services, supports the adoption of electronic health records. In addition, President Bush signed an executive order in 2004 creating the position of National Health Coordinator and called for a widespread adoption of interoperable electronic health records within 10 years.

Although the regulatory agencies call them electronic health records (EHR), the term Electronic Medical Records (EMR) is used by many in healthcare. EHR or EMR is simply a matter of preference. Some vendors make a case that EHR is a more inclusive term, but there is no evidence that EHRs are any different from EMRs in what they can do to relieve the physician’s documentation burden.

When looking at EHRs or EMRs, the key difference would be the technology used. Essentially, there are two choices: template-based electronic records or no-template electronic records. Templates are highly structured which limits the healthcare provider to those topics and choices that are provided by the software to describe symptoms and treatments for them. The no-template choice provides the physician total control over what is in the document and how the information is presented.

It is not possible to anticipate every event that will occur in a physician’s examination or treatment of multiple patients. While using templates is quick and easy, it also keeps physicians from expressing the details that make the physician’s interaction with each patient unique. Admittedly, physicians as they practice do see similarities among cases. Infor-Med’s Praxis® EMR is a unique template-free solution that includes access to these from the knowledge base that has been created in the physician’s system by the physician. The physician can chose to use and edit one of his existing case documentations to adapt it for a similar case thereby making the template-free Praxis® EMR solution quicker to use while not sacrificing the uniqueness of each case.

How the Technology Works

The Praxis® EMR v.4 uses the “Concept Processing” system for data entry and the newly released Knowledge Exchanger. This Concept Processor system uses a neural network that automatically compares the documentation entered on a new patient to other entries to search for identical patients, or patients with similar documentation. For rare cases, all aspects of the documentation are searched for similarities to parts of previous documents. All documentations are entered by physicians in their own style. Initially physicians work with trained medical transcriptionists to build a record base. As physicians build their database the time it takes per case to create a patient’s unique EMR is progressively shortened. For instance, the average learning curve without the Knowledge Exchanger went from an initial 30 minutes per case to less than five minutes per case by the time fifty cases had been entered.

With the arrival of the Praxis v.4 Knowledge Exchanger, the physician instantly benefits from the added medical knowledge of their peers while still maintaining a completely separate knowledge base that self-learns. The Knowledge Exchanger provides an auxiliary library of databases crafted from years of real-life medical learning for reference. Additionally, the learning curve when using the Praxis® EMR system has been greatly reduced rendering the arguments raised by template vendors, that using templates is quicker and easier, obsolete.

Competitive Advantage

The Praxis® EMR is an advanced and flexible technology that learns as the physician uses it to generate complete patient documentation in the physicians own words. It can produce prescription handouts, letters to referring physicians, and electronic billing, following the user’s instructions to the letter. The Praxis® EMR has a competitive advantage over template programming because concept processing technology continues to develop naturally whereas template programming is inherently inflexible. Through the Concept Processor, Praxis provides the physician a paper-free, accurate, secure, and completely interoperable medical practice.

In addition, Praxis’ technology provides enhanced legal protection because the physician enters the data and all instructions exactly in his own words. Praxis stores X-

Rays, lab reports, and everything that should be in a patient's EMR. Praxis uses agents as a method to control access to patient information, revealing it only to authorized persons. Interoperability is assured while privacy is maintained in compliance with HIPAA laws.

Conclusion

The 2008 Frost & Sullivan Healthcare Technology Innovation Award for Healthcare IT is given to Infor-Med Corporation for the company's development of the Praxis® Electronic Medical Records v.4 that incorporates the company's Knowledge Exchanger technology, a uniquely intelligent technology that does not use inherently limiting templates. The Praxis® EMR system provides enhanced documentation of a patient's medical history in the physicians own words and all related services with the patient privacy required by HIPAA while being fully but securely interoperable as directed by the physician.

Award Description

Frost & Sullivan's Technology Innovation Award is bestowed upon a company (or individual) that has carried out new research, which has resulted in innovation(s) that have or are expected to bring significant contributions to the industry in terms of adoption, change, and competitive posture. This award recognizes the quality and depth of a company's research and development program as well as the vision and risk-taking that enabled it to undertake such an endeavor.

Research Methodology

To choose the award recipient, Frost & Sullivan's analyst team tracks innovation in key hi-tech markets. The selection process includes primary participant interviews and extensive primary and secondary research via the bottom-up approach. The analyst team shortlists candidates on the basis of a set of qualitative and quantitative measurements. The analysts also consider the pace of research and technology innovation, and the significance or potential relevance of the innovation to the overall

industry. The ultimate award recipient is chosen after a thorough evaluation of this research.

Measurement Criteria

In addition to the methodology described above, there are specific criteria used to determine the final rankings. The recipient of this award has excelled based on one or more of the following criteria:

- Significance of the innovation(s) in the industry, and across industries (if applicable).
- Potential of the products of innovation(s) to become industry standard(s).
- Competitive advantage of innovation vis-à-vis other related innovations.
- Impact (or potential impact) of innovation(s) on company or industry mind share and/or company bottom line.
- Breadth of intellectual property related to the innovation(s), that is, patents, scientific publications, and papers in peer-reviewed journals.

About Best Practices

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