

Understanding the Electronic Health Record

By Amy Bentley



William W. Feaster, M.D.
CHOC's Chief Medical
Information Officer

Dr. Feaster completed his residency in pediatrics and anesthesiology, as well as fellowship training in neonatal-perinatal medicine, at the University of California, San Diego. He completed additional fellowship training in pediatric anesthesia and critical care at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. In addition to his clinical practice, Dr. Feaster has spent much of his career focused on information technology, helping to implement clinical and administrative systems at several health care institutions. Dr. Feaster came to CHOC Children's in 2012 and has helped CHOC move forward with many new IT initiatives and systems that are improving care and increasing access to information.

Dr. Feaster's philosophy of care: "Medical information is important to providing high-quality, accurate, timely and safe care. My job is to help CHOC keep up with all the advances."

EDUCATION:

M.D., University of Rochester School of Medicine, Rochester, New York

BOARD CERTIFICATIONS:

Pediatric Anesthesiology

Top 2%

CHOC'S ANTICIPATED RANKING BY THE END OF 2014 AFTER ACHIEVING HIMSS' TOP LEVEL OF EHR ADOPTION

72

PERCENT OF OFFICE-BASED PHYSICIANS NATIONWIDE USING SOME KIND OF EHR SYSTEM IN 2012

WHAT IS AN ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD?

An electronic health record (EHR) is a computerized collection of a patient's health records. It includes information such as age, health history, medications, allergies, immunization status, lab test results, hospital discharge instructions and billing information. These digital records can be shared easily among a patient's health care providers, so if one doctor orders a test, for example, all the patient's doctors can see the results. "It has all the data that we generate around a patient's care," says Dr. Feaster, chief medical information officer for CHOC. "The goal is that when you come for care, all the information needed is in a computer rather than a paper chart stored somewhere."

BENEFITS TO YOUR CHILD

"The greatest benefit now is improving the quality and safety of patient care," says Dr. Feaster. "Through the use of electronic orders and standardized order sets, we can implement what we all agree is the best way to care for a certain disease or patient. The EHR also facilitates bar coding of medications, blood, breast



milk and lab tests. This ensures that the correct drug or product is given to the correct patient, thus reducing or eliminating medical errors."

PARENT ACCESS IS COMING

Only health care providers have had electronic access in the past. Coming soon to CHOC is a new patient portal that will allow parents to access their child's information by computer, tablet or smartphone. "Parents will be able to request medication renewals, make appointments and perhaps other functions. They will be able to direct their medical information to other providers if they change specialists, for example. We plan to have this live by late spring or early summer and we will help parents sign up. More details will be forthcoming," says Dr. Feaster.

Top 11%

CHOC'S RANKING AMONG HOSPITALS NATIONWIDE FOR EHR USE TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE*

*ACCORDING TO THE HEALTH INFORMATION AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS SOCIETY



CHOC ON TOP

The not-for-profit Health Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) established seven levels of electronic health record adoption. In 2013, CHOC Children's was certified as a level six organization. By the end of 2014, CHOC expects to reach the top - level seven - placing CHOC in the top 2 percent of all hospitals nationwide for the use of the EHR to better the delivery of health care. CHOC will be the only children's hospital in the western United States and one of just a few nationwide to receive this recognition, according to the HIMSS Analytics website, which supports improved decision making for health care organizations and health care information technology companies by delivering high quality data and analytical expertise.



50 YEARS OF THANKS

In celebration of CHOC's upcoming 50th Anniversary, follow Choco Bear on his gratitude tour and share your story of how CHOC Children's made a difference in the life of someone you know.

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