Simulated Health Records Simplified
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The VariPoint electronic health record learning portal is a Web-based software application designed for people who want to learn the basic functions and operation of a computer-based electronic health record system. Course content has been developed to introduce users to the basic functions of an electronic health record software application with a particular focus on Patient Notes and Orders and Standards.

**Electronic Health Records Defined**

Electronic health record (EHR) systems are the electronic storage of patient medical information, including medical history, patient notes, and orders for procedures and treatments. They have several benefits. First, they provide decision support services for medical professionals and their patients. Second, they protect patients’ privacy by segregating access to patient information based upon role and need to know. Third, they electronically interact with third-party service providers to exchange health and billing information. Finally, they provide healthcare providers and organizations the opportunity to determine and monitor health trends through data analytics. In summary, EHR systems offer an opportunity for increased efficiency, security, data analytics, and monitoring.

**When This Workbook Is Most Useful**

This workbook and access to the VariPoint Electronic Health Record application are most useful for users who want to familiarize themselves with the basic operation and function of an electronic health record software. We do not intend to limit our focus to students in a nursing program or allied health fields or health administration. Rather, any user who has an interest in learning about the core functionality of an electronic health record application and who wishes to develop an understanding of how the acceptance of this technology will transform how business is done in the healthcare industry can benefit from these materials. We purposefully have not loaded up this EHR
with vendor-specific features, which we believe would distract from the user learning about the basic or core responsibilities of an EHR.

At its core, electronic health records can provide a range of benefits for healthcare providers, the payer community, and patients. First and foremost, electronic health records will allow healthcare providers access to information they need to deliver the best care possible. Doctors and other providers will have easy access to patient medical histories at any time during the course of their relationship. Furthermore, an electronic health record system will give providers ready access to all manner of decision support tools that will assist them in both diagnosing and treating patient medical problems. Two of these “decision support tools” are presented in this workbook. The system represented in this workbook places an emphasis on the important role of information security. The user will learn firsthand how patient medical records are brought together to the point-of-care and are still protected and managed in a clinical setting.

**How This Workbook Is Organized**

This workbook contains four Key Learning Assets organized into four chapters. First and foremost, it contains instructions on how to access and use the online VariPoint Electronic Health Record application. This EHR is built using the powerful DataWeb Cloud Database Technology that is integrated into Microsoft’s SQL Relational Database. You will be working with release 2.2. The EHR itself respects the data structure found in the VistA EHR, which has been in use at the Veterans Hospitals across the country for more than 15 years.

Second, you will find the Quick Start Guide and the annotated help screens, which are helpful in understanding the context in which EHRs operate.

Third, in addition to being able to create your own patient appointments and records, you will have full access to authentic patient medical histories. These records are fully de-personalized. This will give you a reasonably sized database of patient medical records in order to experience the search functions that are part of the operation of this EHR.

Finally, you will find a series of self-paced learning exercises that you can use to further extend your working understanding of EHRs. These learning exercises focus on Patient Notes and Orders and Medical Standards and reflect the Meaningful Use requirements of the HITECH Act of 2010.

We hope you find these resources helpful as you further your understanding of EHRs and the impact they will have on this fast-paced and extremely important industry.