



System Analysis • Hardware • Software • Networking & Integration

From the HIMSS Meeting

Records System Helps Solo Doc

After spending the past eight years using an electronic medical records system, Jeffrey D. Cooper, M.D., said he wonders how any other solo practice can afford *not* to automate its records. Cooper, owner of Cooper Pediatrics, Duluth, Ga., claims his records system has enabled him to increase staff without increasing costs, increase his patient load and eliminate chart storage space.

"The benefits of using an electronic medical records system greatly outweigh the costs," Cooper said Tuesday at the 2004 Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society Conference & Exhibition. He led the "Implementing an EHR: ROI and the Small Practice" educational session at the conference. "My charting time has decreased from four minutes to one minute for each patient because of the system."

He told the audience that there's a great number of electronic medical records systems on the market now, and recommended that small practices choose one that offers ease of use and the ability to facilitate communications among staff. "If a computerized patient records system takes a lot of time to use, physicians won't use it," he said. "But if it's fast and follows their workflow, they will."

