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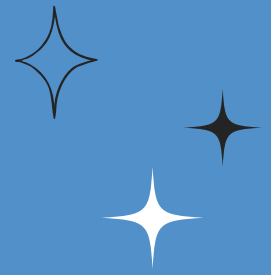
The Essential Guide To Lab Management Software

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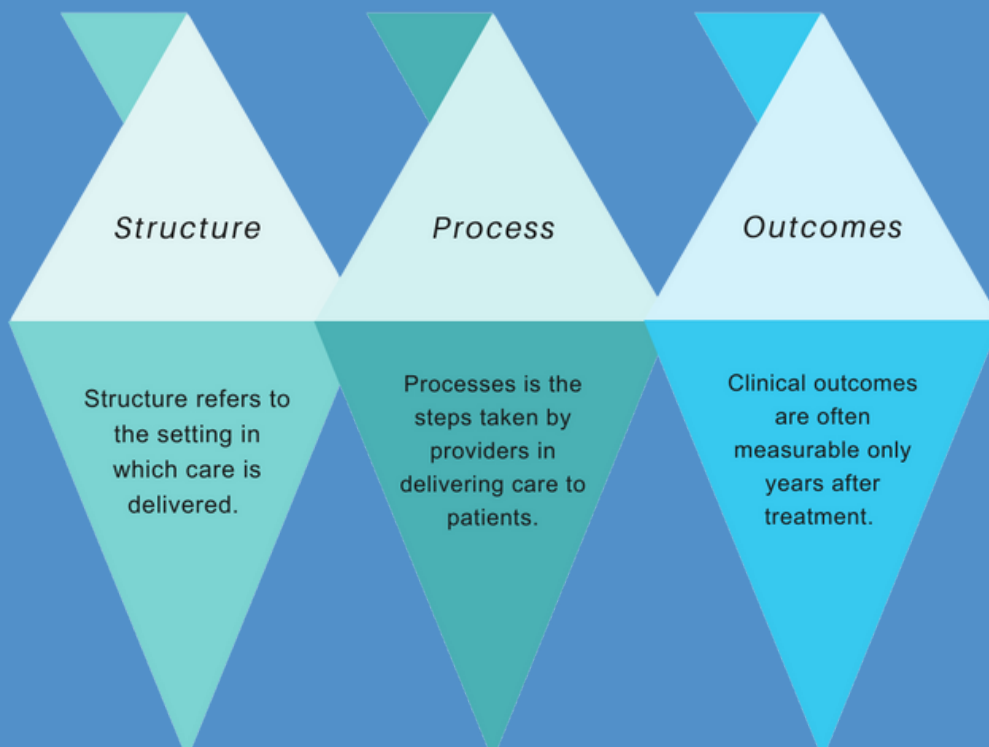
Introduction



The goal of all sleep labs is to provide high-quality patient care that is safe, timely, effective, efficient, equitable, and designed to be patient-centered according to the Institute of Medicine Committee on quality of health care in America.

The use of information technology as a strategic plan is integral to achieving substantial quality improvement. Lab management software can play an important part in improved patient outcomes.

Quality of care is typically measured across three dimensions: structure, process, and outcome.



The common measures for quality improvement are most often tied to the structure and processes of care within the control of the healthcare system.

6 Elements of Lab Management Software

With the help of 10 very experienced lab managers across the United States, the guide was created to provide insights into how lab software can help accomplish a lab's mission of delivering quality patient care.

1 Workflow Efficiency

Patient-centric workflows are imperative for the prompt initiation of treatment and reduction of OSA-associated comorbidities. An ideal workflow gets more done with less by systemizing patient-flow processes, from initial evaluation to diagnosis to treatment. Minimizing manual input allows your team to focus on individual tasks.

Find a lab management software that works for your lab's flow to improve practice efficiency and patient throughput with several key elements. Customizable workflow templates are key for lab managers to create a flow that meets the lab's goals and overcomes challenges. A well-designed dashboard provides quick access to patients' information and awaiting uncompleted tasks. Offerings such as automated communication features and an effective dashboard help maintain a unified team, keeping the patient's interest prioritized.



Tip: Customizable workflows should be a key feature in your software choice.



2

System Integration

A truly integrated patient data and lab management system consists of a database that is seamlessly aligned with the hardware and software through robust HL7 capabilities. Automated processes facilitate bidirectional communication between the lab management software and EMR. Patching third-party solutions together over multiple vendors often fails to produce a truly integrated approach and may result in regulatory hurdles.

For lab managers overseeing multiple locations, multi-site management tools are and critical to standardize patient care across a healthcare system. Use a fully managed service with simple installation, system backups, regular software updates, reliable signal acquisition, and real-time uploading to centralized servers can provide a streamline approach to their work. Choose a system that caters to multi-site healthcare systems and provides while ensuring standardized workflows and tools.



Tip: HL7 capabilities eliminate the need for manual entries and could streamline existing processes within the lab/practice.



3

Information Storage and Retrieval

Access to patient questionnaires, screening assessments, and medication records is key to providing quality care. Patient-centric lab management software requires timely access to records, even those that are archived. Hospital EMR integration, reliable storage infrastructure, and convenient long-term data access are pivotal in successful lab management software.



Tip: : A suitable Lab Management Software should aid in meeting AASM standards. Adherence requires maintenance of patient data, including raw data, for a minimum of five years or longer per US law and provision of electronic copies to other treating physicians per patients' request for release of medical information.

4

ACCESSABILITY AND SECURITY

Dealing with change in healthcare is a constant but never more so than today. The hybrid workplace is the new normal. Cloud-based technologies have provided most businesses with the tools employees need to create seamless virtual work environments at home or in remote locations. Healthcare professionals can work more efficiently when they are able to view, score, interpret and virtually sign reports remotely using any device connected to the internet.



The changeover from paper records to electronic health records has greatly increased the quality and efficiency of patient care; however, with that comes security concerns. Similar to your online banking tools, a reliable web-based lab management system will provide increased security for your health data by applying industry-standard encryption, secure logins, and unmodifiable audit trails. For Lab Managers, having the latest tools to ensure the security of your patient's health information should be your chief priority.



Tip: Look for software with the ability to access data from any device, anytime and anywhere. Consider software that has a two-factor authenticated login/active directory integration capabilities, digital signing of reports, secure logins, and user-tracking with all web traffic being securely encrypted and HIPAA compatible.

5

Reporting Capabilities

These days, everyone is buzzing about “data-driven decision-making”, and for good reason. Data arms you with information, a powerful tool for informed decisions that help run an efficient and even profitable lab that delivers quality patient testing. Look for a lab management software solution that delivers aggregate statistical data in customizable parameters of interest such as patient workflow by physician or technician.

Any decision you make should consider your department's goals. For instance, evaluating metrics like needs. In another example, you may want to understand where your referrals are coming from or see a study count by diagnosis codes. Don't act on guesswork, leaving data sitting on dashboards or in databases is like leaving money on the table.



Tip: Access to a comprehensive set of lab reports helps to prepare for Joint Commission Accreditation or AASM Accreditation, a valuable resource for your practice/lab.



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COST OF OWNERSHIP



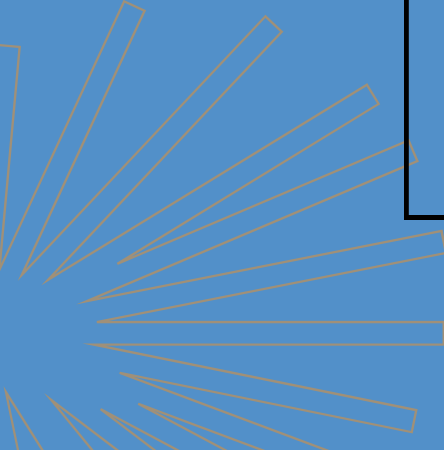
Last, but not least, is price evaluation. Fitting into your budget is one of your biggest concerns. However, there are some equally important considerations when determining the total cost of ownership. Evaluate the costs of maintaining and operating the system, including server maintenance, network equipment maintenance fees, upgrade costs, licensing, and technical support fees.

Always consider the value of what you are paying and whether it will meet your goal of delivering high-quality care. Working closely with your IT department to determine the overall best fit for your budget and priorities.



Tip: Software-as-a-service with ongoing subscription fees allows the Lab Manager to defer considerable CAPEX expenses to an operational budget to ensure ongoing costs are better managed.

The inclusion of regular software updates within a subscription model ensures that the lab is always using the latest version of the software required to meet accreditation without the hassles of annual/biannual budgeting for expensive software upgrades.



Ready to start optimizing your lab?

It's easy to get started with a free consultation!



Compumedics aims to provide the best possible web-based patient data and lab management system. Schedule a complimentary consultation to learn how Profusion neXus 360™ will help your lab operate smoothly and efficiently.

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