
Electronic Health Records Devouring Physicians' Time, Study Finds

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A new AMA-supported [study](#) found that physicians spend far more time working on electronic health records (EHRs) and desk work than they do meeting face to face with their patients. Published online Sept. 6 by *Annals of Internal Medicine*, the study, "Allocation of Physician Time in Ambulatory Practice: A Time and Motion Study in 4 Specialties," involved observations of 57 U.S. physicians in family medicine, internal medicine, cardiology, and orthopedics who were observed for a total of 430 hours, with 21 of them also completing after-hours diaries.

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They cautioned that their data "were gathered in self-selected, high-performing practices and may not be generalizable to other settings."

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"I am not surprised to hear these results, and I can tell you no one who practices medicine today would be surprised by them," said AMA Immediate-Past President Dr. Steven J. Stack, M.D., in an article on the study available on the AMA Wire. "But they highlight exactly why new technologies that can bring greater efficiencies to medicine are so important."

Link: <http://annals.org/article.aspx?articleid=2546704>