DENTAL HYGIENE EDUCATION EHR SOFTWARE

AN EVALUATOR'S GUIDE

What every educator should know when evaluating
EHR software for dental hygiene schools.

axiUm Ascend

Introduction

If you're evaluating electronic health record (EHR) software for your dental hygiene education institution, this guide will help you pair your needs with the right features. Before you dive into choosing software for your organization, let us help you define what your needs are.

This Evaluator's Guide identifies the four things every dental hygiene educator should know when evaluating EHR systems. It's a *must* if you're looking to take your hygiene school paperless or to change your current EHR software. Use it as a handy checklist to identify your requirements.

This guide is written and created by Exan – the makers of axiUm and axiUm Ascend – the industry leaders in dental education software. Over 90% of North American dental schools use axiUm. With over 25 years of experience in the software marketplace, Exan has built a trusted reputation for software that is secure, practical and robust.

The four fundamental elements every EHR software needs:

1. Front Desk Management

2. Clinic Management

3. Student Management

4. Business Management

Overview

What is an Electronic Health Record?

An Electronic Health Record or "EHR" is simply a collection of a patient's health information recorded in digital format. It's the electronic equivalent of the patient's chart stored in one paperless database.

The Digital Technology Reality

Technology innovation is an ever changing, always forward moving process. Without a doubt, digital technology has transformed our world today. As technology advances, many dental hygiene academic institutions are beginning to incorporate tech tools into their programs.

The results lead not only to improvements in patient care. They enhance the educational experience, by streamlining the grading and student management process. The future and the "now" is Electronic Health Records and the paperless work environment.

An EHR may include:

- Patient Demographics
- Medical History
- Medications & Allergies
- Immunization Records
- Radiology Images
- Treatment Records
- Financial & Insurance Information

Cloud, Hosted, On-Premise – What's the Difference?

We understand that there may be some confusion as to the difference between <u>in-house</u> or <u>on-premise</u> solutions, <u>hosted</u> solutions, and TRUE <u>web-based</u> or <u>cloud</u> solutions. Here's a brief explanation of the difference between the three software models.

On-Premise software is installed and run on computers "on the premises" or "in the building" of the organisation using the software. The computers are often connected, via network cables, to a Local Area Network (LAN) in the building. Software is used within the confines of the building. And in order to use these applications, they must be installed on each computer. On-premise software is one of the most common, traditional methods. It typically requires a software license to be purchased for each server and/or computer workstation.

Hosted solutions, although similar to on-premise computing, is slightly different. Hosted services are technology services offered by an external provider that "hosts" the physical servers and the data somewhere else. Access to the service is usually provided through a direct network connection that <u>may</u> or <u>may not</u> run via the Internet. Depending on the application, the user may still need to install software "on premise" on his or her computer. And the degree of user collaboration and interconnectivity is not the same with hosted, as it is with a true cloud solution.

By definition, **On-line or TRUE Cloud** computing refers to a group of computers commonly referred to as "cloud servers". They may also be called "Software as a Service" (SaaS) solutions. These servers are connected through a communication network such as the Internet. The software applications operate from a remote location and are accessible via the Internet from anywhere at anytime on many web enabled devices. Using the servers on the cloud, removes the need for the user to install software "on premise", on his or her computer. Examples of popular, everyday cloud solutions are Salesforce, Slack or DocuSign.

Educational vs Commercial

As dental hygiene educators, it's important to be aware of commercial software solutions that are designed for general dental practice management. These programs may be suitable for operating private dental clinics; however, they don't always meet the specific needs of dental hygiene schools. They are geared toward practice owners and offer day-to-day clinic operation features with little to no focus on student management.

Commercial software systems are suitable for everyday dental clinic management tasks. Their feature sets however are often limited to basic, non-educational tasks like entering treatment procedures and patient billing. Pulling accurate and meaningful data about your dental hygiene students is a whole another story. Don't sell yourself short. They're simply not the best choice for your dental hygiene school.

As educators, your EHR should allow you to experience a seamless integration between student education and clinical operations. You should be able to integrate your EHR with your teaching concepts. You should also be able to track hygiene students' grades, competencies and exams. As well, you should be able to effectively match providers with patients, as well as take care of your patient billing and transactions. Ultimately, you should be able to perform all these tasks in one central system.

Be aware:

Commercial software solutions are geared toward practice owners and offer day-to-day clinic operation features with little to no focus on student management.
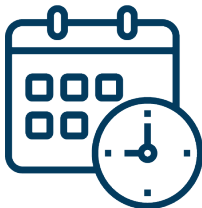
Evaluation

4 Things Educators Should Know When Evaluating Software for Dental Hygiene Schools.

Whether you're shopping now for an EHR solution for your dental hygiene school or you're doing research for the future, keep these four things at the top of your list. Make sure the software systems you evaluate have these elements and you'll be glad you did your homework.

Use one evaluation per solution. Add-up your scores at the end and compare!

1. Front Desk Management

❒ Schedules & Tracks Appointments
❒ Creates and Tracks Treatment Plans
❒ Provides Intuitive Dashboards
❒ Offers Intelligent Exit Workflows
❒ Enables Provider Schedule Control per Location
❒ Includes a Patient Routing Panel

Score =   /6

2. Clinic Management

❒ Offers Patient Overview
❒ Allows Customization of Clinical Charts
❒ Handles Electronic Prescriptions
❒ Electronically Stores Digital Imaging
❒ Enables Quick Exams

Score =   /5

3. Student Management

- ☐ Manages Student Evaluations
- ☐ Enables Feedback
- ☐ Allows Approvals for Treatment Planning
- ☐ Allows Approvals for Treatments and Performed Procedures

Score =   /4

4. Business Management

- ☐ Offers Multi-Location Support
- ☐ Allows Permission Control/Security
- ☐ Supports Insurance Plan Management
- ☐ Creates Flexible Reports
- ☐ Handles Electronic Insurance Claims
- ☐ Permits Location Switching
- ☐ Provides Ledger Location Awareness
- ☐ Enables Ledger Overview

Score =   /8

Overall Scorecard

Requirement	Score
Front Desk Management	/6
Clinic Management	/5
Student Management	/4
Business Management	/8
Total	/23

Now that you know what to look for, the decision process will be much easier when you're ready to consider an EHR system for your dental hygiene school.

Doing your homework up front identifies your essential requirements and allows you to confidently make recommendations on the best solution for your academic program.

Congratulations!

Contact Us

If you have a question or are looking for more detailed information on our dental software products and services, please don't hesitate to get in touch!

1.888.808.6223

sales@exansoftware.com

www.exansoftware.com