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P 630.530.5400 OPT 2

E sales@ambir.com

www.ambir.com

Ambir Technology, Inc.
928 North Oak Lawn Ave
Elmhurst, IL 60126

i About Ambir Technology

Ambir Technology, Inc. is an industry leader in digital capture and document management solutions. Combining professional grade ID card and document scanners, unique digital imaging software and expert-level customer service, Ambir provides their customers with comprehensive, enterprise-level business solutions. Specializing in the healthcare, legal and financial sectors, Ambir helps organizations reduce costs, increase productivity and strengthen data security.

Document Imaging Technology Helps Healthcare Provider Offices Digitize Patient Health Records to Meet Meaningful Use Requirements.

Since 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act have set the stage for physicians, hospitals and other healthcare providers to implement Electronic Health Records/Electronic Medical Records systems. While fast forwarding American healthcare into the digital age is an important aim of both laws, the ultimate goal is to establish Meaningful Use requirements for digitizing information to improve patient care and outcomes, and portability of patient information.

For those healthcare providers who haven't yet adopted certified EHR/EMR systems and cannot demonstrate meeting Meaningful Use requirements will see reductions in their Medicare Part B reimbursements by 1 percent this year and will see further 1 percent reductions each subsequent year of delay up to a maximum of 5 percent.

Eligible providers meeting EHR/EMR and Meaningful Use requirements* can receive:

{ \$44,000 } in Medicare incentive payments over five years

or

{ \$65,000 } over six years under Medicaid.

The incentive program began in 2011 and will end in 2016 and 2017 respectively.

* established in three stages

In addition to Medicare penalties, there could be penalties associated with individual state mandates. Furthermore, healthcare providers who do not meet requirements run the risk of engendering inefficiencies in delivering patient care when interfacing with other providers who have adopted EHR/EMRs, payment delays in dealing with healthcare insurers, undermining portability of medical information, difficulties in assembling family medical histories, complications in establishing legal health records, and hampering patient access to their information.

There are more than enough reasons to go digital. The challenge is what to do with patient healthcare records and other information residing on paper?

While some older records can remain on paper, those with relevance need to be in digital form. There are two ways to digitize paper-based records. Create new ones digitally by inputting information or converting paper records to digital files through document imaging scanners. In either case, most healthcare provider offices do not have the bandwidth to do either.

Enter Colorado Hi-Tech Solutions of Colorado Springs. Colorado Hi-Tech Solutions is a document imaging reseller which has established a service application to digitally scan paper-based health records into digital files which can be uploaded to EHRs and EMRs, accelerating healthcare provider offices clients' abilities to meet Meaningful Use requirements.

"We provide scanning services to a number of local physician and other healthcare providers, digitally converting up to 20 years of patient medical records," said Brent Watson, president of Colorado Hi-Tech Solutions.

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Colorado Hi-Tech Solutions has several employees working at physician, healthcare provider and hospital sites performing the scanning services. The company works via a monthly charge to scan and upload the files into cloud-based and premise-based EHRs and EMRs.

“We literally scan boxes of healthcare records at a time using Ambir ImageScan Pro DS 960-AS desktop document scanners,” Watson said. “We are talking about making a huge number of scans. For example, we have one account where we have performed more than a quarter of a million scans with a desktop scanner, requiring the client to provide us only a desk from which to work and to keep those pallets of boxes coming. Even after 250,000 plus scans, we are only halfway through the paper records.”

Colorado Hi-Tech Solutions integrates each scanner to the EHR/EMR each provider uses. As the Ambir document scanners use industry-standard TWAIN drivers for operation, integration is fairly straightforward.

“Our services are quite cost effective as we operate at the client’s site using desktop document scanners doing the job usually requiring commercial production scanners typically found in document imaging service bureaus, eliminating expenses to clients for transporting records to service bureaus and of course, storing paper records at either a certified document storage facility or far more riskier a private storage locker, which believe it or not, some do,” Watson said.

In recent months, Colorado Hi-Tech Solutions has seen significant upticks in demand for the services from healthcare providers. Watson attributes it to clients striving to meet Meaningful Use Stage 2 proposed regulations which include providing for patients to have access to their healthcare records via Patient Portals.

“The regulations for healthcare providers to adopt certified EHR/EMR systems and those specific to Meaningful Use has brought digitization and information management governance to the healthcare space for bettering patient care and outcomes. The need to digitize paper-based patient medical records and information is great as we all benefit,” Watson said.