

Benefits of Open Notes

Research & References

The practice of Open Notes gives patients near-immediate access to as much of their EMR information as possible. This has been shown to have multiple benefits for patients, their support systems and care team members.

Some key findings from research on Open Notes include:

- Results from a survey of 1,628 clinicians showed that 63% of clinicians did not perceive an increase in time spent charting (DesRoches et al., 2020).
- A survey of over 20,000 patients revealed that only 3.3% felt very confused after reading their notes. This same survey revealed that more than half of patients believed access to their notes helped them to remember their care plans, feel more in control, and take care of their health (Walker et al., 2019).
- Access to notes helped patients understand why they were prescribed medication, as well as their medication regimen. 75% of surveyed second-language English-speakers found having a written record helpful in understanding the reason for a medication (DesRoches et al., 2019).

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