

**Book:** *Electronic Health Records: Transforming Your Medical Practice*

**Author:** Margret Amatayakul, MBA, RHIA, CHPS, CPEHR, FHIMSS  
Steven S. Lazarus, PhD, CHPS, CPEHR, FHIMSS

**Publisher:** Medical Group Management Association, Englewood, CO, © 2005

**ISBN:** 1-56829-232-5

**Reviewer:** E. Sonny Butler, PhD, FAAMA  
Diplomate in Healthcare Administration  
Associate Professor  
College of Information Technology  
Georgia Southern University  
Statesboro, GA

**Book Review:**

Health care is a trillion dollar industry that is undergoing a rapid transformation. There are about 10 million individuals employed in the health care industry, and the Department of Labor recognizes 400 different job titles. The health care delivery industry is highly fragmented and very complex; however, it is beginning to change the way it processes electronic information. The publicity surrounding today's healthcare environment and particularly the Electronic Health/Medical Record is only going to increase and become more pronounced.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) is about insurance portability, fraud, and administrative simplification. This title is watershed legislation for health care information systems. It will result in substantial investment in e-business initiatives and deployment of security technology in the health care and insurance business.

To prepare to meet some of the challenges we face as health care professionals we must understand how technology is being used in the health care industry and specifically how the Electronic Health Record will be designed, developed, and used. This book serves as a primer for the Electronic Medical Record but specifically focuses on the individuals who need to assist medical group practices make the best decisions concerning their Information Technology investment.

It is important to understand that the implementation of EMR systems isn't IF it's WHEN. If you have taken a university level course in Systems Analysis and Design and Project Management you will understand the contents of this book fairly quickly. The chapters are divided into what I consider the problem solving model, i.e. define the problem, determine feasibility, analyze your particular situation and current system, or lack thereof, define your requirements, document all of the above and either build or buy. Without question you will need someone with considerable expertise in the areas under consideration from technical through administrative and clinical knowledge.

This is a complex challenge and this book will give you a head start on understanding what lays ahead. I have personally been through the various aspects of the development of what I call an Electronic Patient Record System as opposed to the Electronic Medical Record and this takes time and commitment from all parties involved to succeed.