

Internists report considerable EMR-linked time loss

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(HealthDay)—Use of electronic medical record (EMR) systems is associated with considerable loss of free time per clinic day, according to a research letter published online Sept. 8 in *JAMA Internal Medicine*.

Clement J. McDonald, M.D., from the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md., and colleagues surveyed the American College of Physicians' national sample of internists to examine the extent of EMR-associated time loss. Data were obtained from 411 respondents (mainly attending physicians).

The researchers found that 61 distinct EMR systems were used, and nine were used by 20 or more responders. These nine EMRs accounted for 78.8 percent of all users, and users of each system reported free time loss (P

"The loss of free time that our [respondents](#) reported was large and pervasive and could decrease access or increase costs of care," the authors write.

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