

A message from Lisa Reed, Dawn Nee and Tricia Brisbois

Community Program Update - June 2, 2021

Wellforce continues to advance its EpicEdge Community offering for private practice physicians. The following is a progress report and preview of steps to be taken in the next 3 months of 2021. We appreciate your engagement and interest in this project, and want to ensure that we provide you regular updates that include:

- Project status and recent accomplishments
- Critical milestones and upcoming priorities
- How providers can participate

Project Summary

- Wellforce is offering private practice members the opportunity to acquire the best-in-class Epic electronic health record (EHR) and practice management system for use in their practice.
- Locally branded as EpicEdge Community, this offering allows private practices to keep their financial and billing information separate while sharing the clinical record with the enterprise.

Project Status and Recent Accomplishments

- **EpicEdge Community Orientation Sessions** – The EpicEdge Community Physician offering was kicked off on March 25 with the first of four orientation sessions that included a demonstration of Epic along with an overview of the EpicEdge Community program. There were over 250 participants across Wellforce in attendance at these sessions.
- **Orientation Packet, Community Survey and FAQs** were sent to attendees of the orientation sessions. These materials are available both by request and on the following website: <https://www.neqca.org/Programs-And-Services/Programs/Epic>.
- **EpicEdge Community Topic-Specific Sessions** - Based on requests from providers and staff, four additional specialty-sessions were held beginning May 12 that covered Billing, MyChart, Pediatrics and Orthopedics.
- **Initial Pricing Model** - The initial pricing for the Epic software was developed and included in the orientation session presentations as well as included in the orientation packet that was distributed after the sessions.
- **Hardware Vendor Request for Information (RFI)** – As a service of our EpicEdge Community program, the Wellforce team is reviewing information obtained from an RFI that was sent to hardware vendors and is compiling a preferred vendor list for private practices. Some practices have existing relationships with hardware vendors that support their practice today, but many practices need to engage a hardware vendor to purchase any needed equipment and support their practice over time.

June - July 2021 Critical Milestones and Upcoming Priorities

- **Physician Agreement** - Our EpicEdge Community team continues to work on finalizing the physician agreement that will be the document practice providers sign to obtain the Epic license for their practice. The team had hoped to complete the physician agreement initially by June 1, but we are slightly delayed primarily due to two reasons.
 - Third-party agreements are still being finalized for the Wellforce enterprise. Agreements and pricing for these services are needed to itemize in the physician agreement.
 - Work is still underway to develop the process and pricing for data conversion and archiving of the legacy EHR system.
- **Data Conversion and Archiving** - To migrate to Epic, a practice will need to complete both conversion and archiving of their legacy EHR data as described below. The Wellforce team is actively meeting with vendors who provide these services. We aim to provide several options to private practices that meet their specific needs. We understand that this data conversion and the associated cost is often one of the most if not THE most critical piece of information needed as part of the decision to move to Epic.
 - **Data Conversion:** Move a subset of data to Epic by extracting data in a specific format from the legacy HER.
 - **Data Archiving:** After running down any outstanding Accounts Receivable in the legacy system, the legacy EHR system will need to be archived for a period of time in order to reference historical data and as needed for patient requests.

Decision Making Timeline Update

In our original timeline, we stated that we would need a decision by July 1 for an implementation in the first go-live wave of March 2022. Based on the current program updates and our continued work to finalize the physician agreement and data conversion strategy, a July 1 date will most likely be pushed out to ensure we communicate all the information needed for providers to make an informed decision. We are actively working on updating our overall timeline and implementation schedule and hope to communicate an updated decision timeline by the end of June.

Thank you to everyone for your continued interest and participation in this project. Your dedication, expertise, and time have been invaluable. We look forward to being able to provide Epic to our practices to enhance patient-care decision.

Contact

Please direct any questions to EpicEdge@wellforce.org. Or, to a member of the EpicEdge Community Team:

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