

# Healthcare IT News

## EMR effort to link docs to El Camino

By [Molly Merrill, Associate Editor](#) | 10/01/08 |  **Connect** CAMINO 1008

MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA - A three-to-five-year electronic medical records initiative will link more than 100 independent physicians affiliated with Mountain View, Calif. -based [El Camino Hospital](#).

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

Advertisement

Hospital officials spearheaded the program in an effort to support independent physicians who typically can't afford the costs associated with EMR systems implementation.

Independent physicians affiliated with [El Camino Hospital](#) have formed a nonprofit organization called Independent Physicians of [El Camino Hospital](#) (IPECH), made up of 110 members. IPECH will manage the implementation through a service agreement with the hospital and manage the maximum subsidy allowable by Stark Law definition, which according to the organization's executive director, [Kent Madison](#), is 85 percent.

El Camino will deploy a unified electronic medical record and practice management software from [eClinicalWorks](#), a Westborough, Mass. -based company. Girish Kumar Navani, CEO and co-founder of [eClinicalWorks](#), says the solution will provide physicians with e-prescribing functionality, a patient portal, lab ordering and chronic care / preventive care alerts.

Physicians will also have access to [eClinicalWorks](#) Electronic Health eXchange, a community health record and [eClinicalWorks](#) Enterprise Business Optimizer, a reporting and financial analysis tool.

"We have a good track record and a 98 percent adoption rate, said Navani. "We have over 20,000 physicians using our solution now. I am confident that El Camino will have the same success."

So far [Madison](#) says 80 independent physicians have committed themselves to the initiative.

"We are not forcing anyone to implement this technology. This is all voluntary so the physicians are all very receptive to the idea and committed to doing it," [Madison](#) said.

The first practice, [Manoukian Medical Group](#), a practice made up of two physicians, is set to go live at the end of Sept.

IPECH expects that each practice will take about 16 weeks to fully implement.

New Jersey-based ITelagen will provide El Camino with information technology and EMR support.

ITelagen is also supporting an EMR implementation for the Walnut Creek, Calif.-based Muir Medical Group IPA.

John O'Keefe, ITelagen's CEO, points out that to link 100 physicians, really means support for 300-400 computers. "With three or more physicians it becomes more painful," he said.

According to O'Keefe, EMR implementation usually consists of four components: implementation and configuration, hosting, phone configuration and equipment (such as computers).

What ITelagen does is control and manage all of these components – they really take care of anything IT related, says O'Keefe.

[Ute Burness](#), CEO [Muir Medical Group](#), IPA, is in phase two of her group's initiative to link 200 physicians by 2010. Currently, about 60 physicians in 24 locations have an EMR.

[Burness](#) says, "Each terminal is assigned a number. They (ITelagen) have a designated team that just works on my project. They know about my medical group," she said. "No one else out there is providing that level of help desk service. "