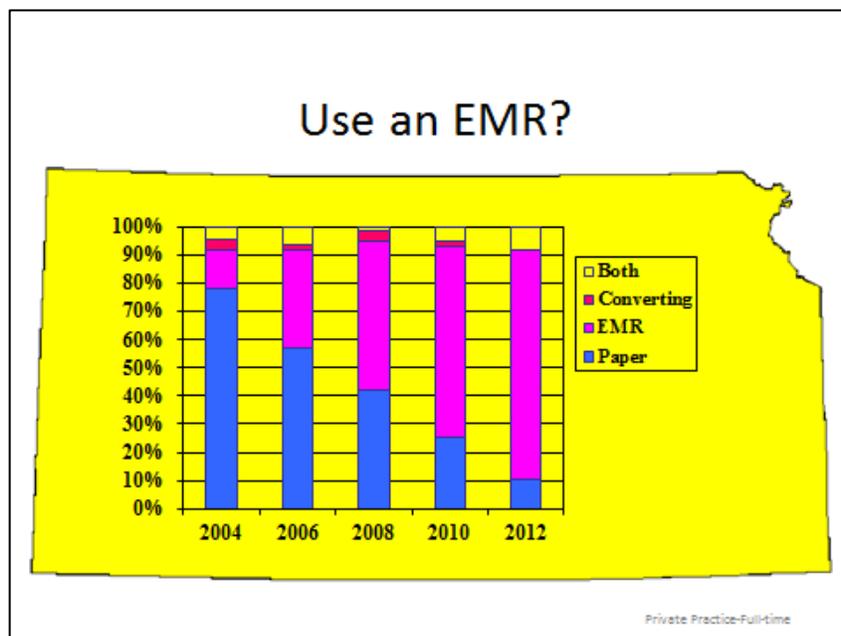


## Trends in the Use of Electronic Medical Records by Kansas Family Physicians

Although the principles of the patient centered medical home do not prescribe the use of electronic medical records (EMR), they do posit that "Care is facilitated by registries, information technology, health information exchange, and other means ..." and that "Information technology is used appropriately to support optimal patient care, performance measurement, patient education, and enhanced communication."<sup>1</sup>

Over the last decade an increasing number of Kansas family physicians have abandoned paper records in favor of electronic medical records. In a 2012 survey of KUSM-Wichita sponsored family medicine residency program graduates who practice in Kansas, 89% were using an EMR. Only 11% continued to use paper records exclusively. Wichita family physicians were more likely to use an EMR (96%) than those in rural areas (79%), but both were above the national average of 72% for using EMR.<sup>2</sup>



Of those using EMRs, 58% were happy with their system, though a substantial minority, 36% were not. Eighty-two percent of the physicians indicated that they use a computer for e-prescribing. Thirty-one percent indicated that they e-mail patients. Fifteen percent use a disease registry.

The survey did not ask whether the electronic medical record systems used by Kansas family physicians have patient registries, allow performance measurement, enhance patient education or improve communication as designated in the principles of the patient centered medical home. We can speculate that the full advantage of the electronic medical record will only occur when patient registries, quality improvement capabilities, patient portals for patient education and communication, e-prescribing opportunities and information exchange are embedded in the electronic system.

1. Kellerman R, Kirk L. Editorial: Principles of the Patient Centered Medical Home. *American Family Physician*. 2007, September 15;76(6):774-775.
2. Chun-Ju Hsiao, Ph.D., and Esther Hing, M.P.H. Use and Characteristics of Electronic Health Record Systems Among Office-based Physician Practices: United States, 2001–2012 <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db111.pdf> accessed 11/22/2013.