

Views From the E-List* -- Software

Query:

Does anyone use PT Software programs for documentation in your clinics and if so what kind and do you like it? What are the pros and cons of the ones you use? Do any of you use the software for your aquatic documentation and how do you do that if you are in the pool all day? My boss is looking into changing over to paperless documentation and we are trying to gather some info from those who have used the programs.

Responses:

We are also researching software. We were turned onto *APTA Connect* by Cerderon.

We use *TherAssist* for all our documentation. It works pretty well. You can set up click notes for phrases you use a lot and then just type in additional information for the day. I keep a laptop in the pool room and get in and out a lot to type. You can also access the server from your home computer so if you do not get notes done you can do them in the evening. After I got used to the system it didn't take that much longer than paper documentation except for initial evaluations. I have to type in more information for those. Overall, I like the program.

Our clinic converted to electronic records in September - software is the hospital's proprietary system. As far as the aquatic records, they are electronic also and NO we do not document while at the pool. So far what we do is set up an aquatic note/flowsheet based on the initial evaluation, then print it out and take it to the pool for jotting notes and comments. When we're done in the pool, we return to the office and enter/update the electronic record. It's very helpful that we can just copy the previous electronic note, edit and/or update it, then save that as that day's note. I have heard of another aquatic practice that does take laptops to the pool, but they are only seeing 1-2 patients and have a small "work area" for the equipment and data entry.

Try *Redoc*. I have been using it for over 9 years now. It always works and keeps my team on the same page for documentation. The doctors like the details. Nothing better in the market in my mind!

I dropped *Redoc* because of a very small text entry field and originally no cut and paste feature. We now use *Planet Rehab*. Great service, import/ export, and great price.

Our clinic is using *Cedaron*, APTA's recommended software. I do not recommend it. It is not user friendly and has required much modification to the programs.

We also converted to electronic note keeping a few years ago. I was dreading the documentation, but I find that it is much easier to keep up. Each time I charge the patient, which I have to do on a daily basis, I bring my last note forward, and update it. I never get behind because it takes very little time, and I am on the computer, documenting my charges for the day at that patient's site anyway. I don't even print anything out, or scribble notes at the pool. I can remember what I did with 6-8 patients by the end of the day. All I need is my attendance list.

We use *Therapy Source* for our documentation and scheduling. The billing is also linked, so it pulls the charges directly from the note based on the time that you input for each charge. Basically you document each treatment/ex, bill it as ther ex, ther act, neuro re-ed, aquatic therapy, etc, and you document the time. The program compiles everything and pulls out the charges based on what you documented. It has a pretty good list of options for exercises, and usually gives you the option for adding something in as well. We have had some difficulty with getting things going after upgrades, but it's not terrible. I do not document poolside (the biggest down fall). But again, you can carry all ex from the previous session to the next note, which does make things faster. There is a VPN access from home possibility as well.

**Opinions and suggestions expressed in this column represent e-list member responses to the query posted. They are not represented by the Aquatic Therapy and Rehab Institute and/or the author(s) of this column as recommendations regarding appropriate practice.*