

## Pediatric electronic health records face off in competition

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Nine pediatric electronic health records (EHRs) participated in the fourth Pediatric Documentation Challenge and third Pediatric EHR Award Program held in late May.

In the morning session, a crowded room watched as clinicians and vendors had 17 minutes to show how their system handled 10 difficult pediatric issues, including overdue vaccinations, adoption, name changes, growth charts, adolescent confidentiality, pediatric normal value ranges and pediatric weight-based prescribing.



**Dr. Schneider**

Three members of the AAP Council on Clinical Information Technology (COCIT), Eugenia Marcus, M.D., FAAP, Alan Zuckerman, M.D., FAAP, and William Zurhellen, M.D., FAAP, judged the award program. Vendors entered background historical information on the scenarios before the presentation. In their presentation time, each demonstrated how they would handle live data not previously known to them.

Performance on each scenario was scored using an Apgar-like system of 0 (couldn't do it) to 2 (handled the scenario extremely well).

In a close vote, first honors went to eClinicalWorks with a score of 59 out of a possible 60. Second honors went to last year's winner, Office Practicum with 57 points. Then, in an extremely close race, Medical Communications Systems took third place. Previous winners, JMJ Technologies, e-MDs and Electronic Health care Systems, all were within a few points of tying for third place. Three newcomers, Practice Partner, Noteworthy and Bond Technologies, also participated.

Virtually all of the EHRs were capable of handling most of the complex scenarios posed. These standard scenarios were created by COCIT members S. Andrew Spooner, M.D., M.S., FAAP, Lewis Wasserman, M.D., FAAP, and Joseph H. Schneider, M.D., M.B.A., FAAP. They are based on the AAP Policy Statement, *Special Requirements for Electronic Medical Record Systems in Pediatrics* (*Pediatrics*.2001 ;108:513 - 515[[Abstract/Free Full Text](#)]).

In the afternoon, the same vendors and clinicians played to a standing room only audience in the unjudged Pediatric Documentation Challenge. This was an office visit scenario of a 4-year-old child being seen for a well-child check. The scenario, which can be found at <http://aapcocit.org/scenario1.pdf>, included name and address changes, immunization tracking, documenting over-the-counter medications, and anticipatory guidance. The script was prepared by Dr. Marcus and closely paralleled a script that is being used by the Certification Commission for Health Information Technology to certify ambulatory EHRs.

Because the vendors did so well in this year's programs, the scripts will be revised for next year. The vendors who participated indicated their interest in taking part in the Pediatric Documentation Challenge that will be given in the Technology Learning Center at the AAP National Conference & Exhibition this October in Atlanta. This session will be the second time the Academy has offered this program, where pediatricians will demonstrate how the software they use can handle a scenario.

Although the sessions are designed as a competition, they represent a way to improve all pediatric EHRs by raising awareness of what the competition can do. The sessions were held at the 22nd annual Towards an Electronic Patient Record (TEPR) meeting in Baltimore in mid-May. The TEPR meeting is conducted by the Medical Records Institute (MRI) of Boston.

For those not able to attend TEPR, COCIT has developed a Web site where AAP members can post comments and score pediatric EHRs on a variety of functions or review comments posted by others. Visit [www.aapcocit.org/emr](http://www.aapcocit.org/emr) to use this tool.

**Participating vendors:**

<b>Vendor</b>	<b># of years of participation</b>	<b>Awards</b>
eClinicalWorks	2	First, 2006
Office Practicum	2	First, 2005 Second, 2006
Medical Communications Systems	1	Third, 2006
JMJ Technologies	4	Second, 2004
EHS	3	First, 2004
e-MDs	2	Second, 2005
Practice Partner	1	
Noteworthy	1	
Bond Technologies	1	