How do I improve efficiency with EHR Dashboards?

Sometimes, to fully understand a patient or a specific illness, you need lots of different data from different categories like vitals, lab tests, microbiology, radiology, etc. To figure out a common and specific problem, like an infection, you often need a lot of information yet that information is usually the same for each similar case. Dashboards can help you create a custom view that contains the same data for every patient which focuses on everything relevant for a certain problem or task.

EHR dashboards can provide a way for you to create a custom view of data from different categories and view it together on the same screen. This organization by “relatedness” matches how humans think. It adds context and allows you to draw deeper conclusions than when data are organized by data type, which is really driven by how computers “think”.

Dashboards are typically powered by structured data since they use graphs and tables and summarizations of the data. Some can also include unstructured data, like radiology reports or progress notes. However, as we know, unstructured data cannot easily be trended or compared.

Dashboards exist not only for analyzing certain problems, such as infections or diabetes, but also for certain purposes like pre-rounding, rounding, tracking a patient’s course through the emergency room, monitoring blood transfusions, and many more.
Example of a Diabetes dashboard

Advantages

- Different data types can be displayed side-by-side in various configurations which helps with data analysis and cultivation of insight.
- Dashboards allow you to review as well as compare and contrast data that may not be the same type or typically found in the same place in the EHR.

Tips

- Verify the accuracy of data and patient-specific interpretation if you see something that looks unusual in your dashboard. Dashboard or reports might show a wrong trend if some key data is missing or incorrect.
- Perform data stewardship in order to get accurate and meaningful reports and dashboards.

Note: Different EHRs will have different dashboards available. Explore your EHR dashboards to see what is most useful to you.