

## Practice Management Software: An Overview

Here's a detailed look at what's available

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Picking the right software for your office may be one of the most vital and difficult decisions you make when starting or improving your office. The number of available medical business-related software titles has been estimated at over 2000. Given this myriad of programs to choose from, selecting the proper software can be quite daunting and tedious, not to mention time-consuming. While some software publishers do not cater to any specific specialty, others will customize their products for specific specialties and even specific doctors or groups. In this article we will look at some of the available pieces of software that are designed with podiatry in mind. In keeping with the times and new rules by which we must practice, all software that is reviewed in this article meets HIPAA guidelines unless otherwise specified.

Readers should note that we've limited our discussion here to companies that provide actual podiatric practice management software programs--either for comprehensive office management or exclusively for electronic medical records--but there are other types of programs available as well, particularly in the field of claim processing.

One of the best-known of these is HIPAA-compliant EClaims.com, an Internet-based clearinghouse offering the podiatrist another option for submitting medical claims. The service costs \$199.95 for setup, \$49.95 annually, then 44-cents per claim. Fees are charged only for claims processed -- claims rejected for errors are returned, at no charge, with an explanation so they can be re-submitted. EClaims works with virtually all billing software and customer support is readily available.

I recommend you try out programs prior to purchase. Take full advantage of online and in-person demos, trial versions, and all printed material before making a decision. Your decision needs to be made in conjunction with your staff, especially your medical billing personnel and other key staff members who will use the program regularly. Programs are listed in alphabetical order.

### AppMed

Product Type: Practice Management Software

Publisher: AppMed, Inc., (Lindenhurst, IL).

Requirements: Windows PC, Pentium III or better, 400 Mhz or faster, at least 64 MB of RAM

What is it?

AppMed is a recently developed practice management software title offering many standard features in a friendly graphical interface.

How does it work?

The basic interface consists of a menu of icons used to access AppMed's primary functions, including a ledger, report creator, patient information database, claim submission interface, and an appointment scheduler. The software will soon offer storage for digital pictures and x-rays, patient websites, and the ability to send out email with email address storage. AppMed integrates information with Charting Plus 4.3 and sends it only to the EMR software. AppMed's security features include password protection for each user, with the ability to set limitations for users individually.

What does it cost?

AppMed is \$5,500 for unlimited users across multiple computers with a single database. The cost for an additional database is \$750. The clearinghouse chosen will determine claim submission prices. A trial version of the software is available from the company. Support can be purchased per incident or per year for \$900, which includes updates and unlimited support.

(800) 854-0031  
www.appmed.com

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AS/PC®

Product Type: Practice Management Software

Publisher: DB Consultants, Inc. (Ottsville, PA) Software publisher since 1984.

Requirements: Minimum - Windows PC, Pentium IV, 2 GHZ or faster, 128MB RAM, 8GB hard drive, Fast Ethernet network card, HP business series laser printer(s).

Recommended: Pentium IV, 2 GHZ or faster, 256-512 MB of RAM. If a fileserver is being utilized, it should be the most recent technology to assure safe data storage and to prevent lost time.

What is it?

AS/PC® is a feature-rich practice management application with a patented system for data entry and retrieval.

How does it work?

The interface incorporates a text tool bar with drop-down menus to select the desired feature or field. Once the field or feature has been opened, icons appear to provide access to functions associated with that field or feature. Some of the features accessible through the text tool bar include: customizable reporting, multiple fee scheduling, calendars, to-do lists, open problem lists, referral tracking and other integrated features useful in the medical office. An advanced patient record feature allows for extensive information to be stored per patient. The software interfaces with third party voice recognition and appointment scheduling programs. Datafiles from AS/PC® can be imported into Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Word. The system integrates with numerous

electronic medical records, including MediNotes and Docs Plus. Electronic claims can be sent to Medicare for no charge per claim and to a clearinghouse for about 35 cents per claim.

What does it cost?

Electronic claims software, as well as the HIPAA-compliant 4010 program, is included in the software at no additional charge. The software is available for a 45 day trial by download at [www.dbconsultants.com](http://www.dbconsultants.com). Annual support packages are available for purchase; program upgrades are included in the cost of the support package. A single-user version of AS/PC® is approximately \$3,400 and includes a minimum of eight hours of training; the multi-user version is approximately \$5,000 for 3 terminals and includes a minimum of 12 hours of training. Additional training is available through seminars, workshops, and online.

(610) 847-5065

[www.dbconsultants.com](http://www.dbconsultants.com)

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Charting Plus 4.3

Product type: Electronic Medical Record

Publisher: MediNotes Corporation (West Des Moines, IA) founded in 1995.

Requirements: Client computer (to access Charting Plus) - Windows PC, 800MHz or faster, 128 MB of RAM and 10 GB hard drive.

Server computer (to run the Charting Plus database) - Windows PC, 1.8 GHz or faster, 256 MB of RAM and 30 GB hard drive.

What is it?

Charting Plus 4.3 is a flexible, customizable electronic medical record application. Designed to enable physicians to better control their documentation. This software uses expanding templates to quickly and accurately describe the patient encounter. Because it is all electronic, the information is freely accessible throughout the office network. Physicians can chart right at the point-of-care using wireless Tablet PC's. Charting Plus users are able to eliminate transcription fees, improve coding, increase office efficiency.

How does it work?

Charting Plus is flexible and dynamic conforming to the way to chart and the pertinent information of the patient encounter. Charts are created on a single screen, using a "what you see is what you get" interface. Simply click on the area of text that you would like to change and a dialog box pops up with a list of documentation choices. Charting Plus includes ICD-9 and CPT codes from the AMA, and anatomical images from ADAM, Inc. Anatomical images can be used to describe the location of the condition in the text section of the note or to graphically illustrate the condition using the Image Annotator. This image can be added to the body of the note. Charting Plus also includes an E & M Wizard which suggests appropriate E & M coding, based on the number of elements documented and other factors.

This software interfaces to many popular practice management systems, to Impact.MD Document Management, and AppointmentsPRO electronic scheduling. It is HIPAA-certified and is enabled for wireless networking, Tablet PC's and Voice Recognition.

What does it cost?

Each doctor license must be purchased separately and non-medical licenses can be purchased for office staff to insure limited access. Purchasing a support contract ensures technical support, free product and coding upgrades, online support and virtual computer support. The price for the basic system is \$2,495 for a single user license and \$495 for support and maintenance. Additional modules, networking licenses, additional doctors and staff licenses can be added along with support, though prices should be discussed with Medinotes, the publisher, prior to purchase. Some of the additional modules that are available include: Patient Monitor to customize the patient folder; Practice Desktop customize the desktop and provide a global view of events like: unfinished notes, to-do's, alerts, preventive medicine, etc. Database Synchronization to keep data synchronized across multiple computers; Practice Panorama to provide customized reports of stored data; Drug Interaction Module to provide warnings of potential drug interaction problems; Document Management Module to allow users to scan directly into Charting Plus via a single sheet scanner (support for multi-page high speed scanning is available through Impact.MD) and manage electronic documents. Due to the increased security of the HIPAA regulations, the Custom Security Module is offered to restrict permissions on single objects or access to information. X-link is a separate module that enables synchronization between Charting Plus 4.3 and certain practice management software. This does not work with all practice management software and should be checked out individually. Integration of a scheduling program can be purchased as a separate module as well.

877)633-6683  
www.medinotes.com

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E-Note Software, Version 3.0

Product Type: Patient Note Application

Publisher: E-Note Software (Sheridan, WY) created by Craig McLaws, D.P.M.

Requirements: Windows 98 or newer, 400 Mhz or faster (Pocket PC or Handheld devices are optional add-ons)

What is it?

E-Note Software allows doctors to quickly and easily create patient notes and other documentation. It also allows for the integration of Pocket PC palm-sized computers.

How does it work?

E-Note Software allows for free flow integration of note segments, pieced together, to create a completed document. It's like dictating in whole sentences or paragraphs. These segments

are added to the note by clicking on buttons which are grouped according to what part of a document you are working on. The button captions, group, designations and text are all easily customized. Navigation tabs jump the user to the groups of buttons. Podiatric clip-art is available and can be modified and annotated. Photographs can also be inserted in a note and annotated. Documentation is saved in a file folder for that particular patient creating an electronic chart. Previous notes are easily retrieved and common segments can be used in future documents. E-Note Software works with voice dictation software. Palm-size Pocket PC and Windows CE versions of the software are also available, allowing doctors to take notes at bedside, outside the office, or while in the room with the patient.

What does it cost?

E-NoteSoftware Version 3.0 is \$34.95 a month on a lease program. Includes: Free email support and updates. E-Note for PPC and Handheld versions is \$350.00 (one time charge) as an update to the desktop version.

(800) 821-6744

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EppointmentsPlus

Product type: Appointment Scheduling & Patient Tracking

Publisher: EppointmentsPlus, (Seabrook, TX) founded in 1999.

Requirements: Windows 98, 2000, ME, NT, or XP, high speed Internet connection, and a 650MHz computer with 64MB, though the more recent computers will work faster and more efficiently. To take advantage of on-line functions, physicians should have a website.

What is it?

This is not a typical piece of software at all. EppointmentsPlus is an in-office schedule manager which can also allow a patient to complete all of the new patient information on-line as well as make an appointment from your website. The scheduling software is designed to prevent any breach in confidentiality and allows only the office to know what appointment times are available. A patient-tracking module, that is a communication tool for the office that allows posting diagnostic and treatment codes, is also available for an additional charge. It is important to note that this product will not keep a medical note of the patient encounter or act as an electronic billing program.

How does it work?

Patients access EppointmentsPlus by visiting the doctor's website and log in via password through a secure sever. Patients initially complete personal, responsible party, insurance, and medical information. They then enter their preference for what office, day of the week, and time for their appointment. All time limits for appointment types have been preset for each physician. Each physician also indicates how much Internet appointment availability they prefer. After submitting this information, a new page appears with the next available appointment

based on the patient's preferences. The patient then has the option of accepting the appointment or going back and changing his or her preferences. Once an appointment has been accepted, a confirmation email is sent to the patient and the appointment is entered into the in-office schedule manager. The in-office schedule manager features a tabbed interface and a color-coded date book. A history of all scheduled appointments and patient information is stored online and can be retrieved for future use. The appointment schedule can be printed or viewed from a outside terminal.

An additional module called patient tracking can be purchased as part of the total package. This patient tracking module allows the doctor to keep a record of time spent with a patient, including vital information such as diagnostic and treatment codes, follow-up appointments and prescriptions. Office staff, to expedite the office experience, can then access this information from other computers.

The software interfaces with MediSoft Patient Accounting and TexTALK MD, a voice recognition electronic medical record.

What does it cost?

EppointmentsPlus is priced at \$1200 for up to two physicians. Each additional physician is \$500 extra. Maintenance is \$55 per month for up to four physicians and currently includes technical support and upgrades. The patient tracking module can be included for a total package price of \$2500 for up to two physicians (\$650 for each additional) and a \$65 maintenance fee. You can experience the software through an interactive demo via the EppointmentsPlus website or by requesting a demo CD.

(281) 218-6286

[www.EppointmentsPlus.com](http://www.EppointmentsPlus.com)

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NueMD

Product Type: Practice Management Software

Publisher: Nuesoft Technologies, Inc. (Atlanta, GA) founded in 1993.

Requirements: 233 MHZ Processor or higher, 128 MB of RAM, Latest Web Browser release, WIN 98 or more recent operating system, MAC OSX or more recent operating system, High speed Internet connection

What is it?

NueMD is an Internet-based practice management software program designed specifically for small to mid-size physician's offices. Core functionality includes interactive scheduling, encounter management, claims processing, batch payment and comprehensive reporting and analysis. NueMD offers automated tools such as eligibility verification, electronic claims filing, patient appointment reminder phone calls, and patient statements.

How does it work?

Nuesoft is one of a handful of companies that provide practice management solutions without the necessity of investing in new specific hardware, although minimum requirements do exist, as mentioned above. The software, as we will refer to it for discussion, is downloaded via a website and installed onto the computer like any other piece of software. When the program is needed, the doctor logs on to his account using the software and connects to NueMD's servers through the available Internet connection. At this point the doctor uses the software no differently than an in-office practice management system. The interface appears similar to a windows-based software system with graphic icons and text to pick the desired module to work in. Available modules include appointment scheduler, demographic and patient info storage, encounter record for billing info storage, report generation, claims processing and statement production.

Electronic claims can be sent with this software, free via a yearly subscription to the software, or 35 cents per claim if the software is on a monthly lease. Previous info from other practice management software can be uploaded to this program, although the system does not specifically convert all info. All information is secured with 128 bit encryption, HIPAA standard, and is stored in a private database created with each individual doctor's account. The data is stored on brand new advanced server storage systems that provide infallible protection of data. Support is provided with the subscription to the software. Security in the office can be achieved with separate privileges for individual office personnel and controlled by the office administrator.

What does it cost?

NueMD costs \$3,900 yearly per physician with unlimited use by office staff. Monthly subscriptions are also available.

(404) 351-5052  
[www.nuesoft.com](http://www.nuesoft.com)

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Q'Power Podiatry Documentation Software Suite

Product type: Electronic Medical Records and Podiatry Notes Application

Publisher: Quick Notes, Inc., (Cooper City, FL) founded in 1989.

Requirements: Windows 98 or better, with Windows XP recommended

What is it?

Q'Power is a comprehensive suite of components for creating notes and reports, as well as managing electronic medical records. The software components can be used in concert, or individually, to tailor the system to the needs of your practice.

How does it work?

Q'Power allows a doctor to organize and access electronic notes, reports and images. Notes can be added and created using powerful templating features, as well as through numerous point-and-click screens. The system includes well over 50 samples of SOAP notes, operative reports and procedure notes, and you are even able to use your own. In addition to your notes, digital images including X-rays can be stored in the patient chart. Documents can also be created using voice recognition products and traditional typing. Another element of the Q'Power Documentation Suite is the ability to create notes using various portable devices. Q'Notes can be created on a Palm OS device using new portable touchscreen technology, also known as "ThumbWare". This system will work on most Palm Pilots, Sony Clie's and some Handspring Visors. Q'Notes is also available with the patented barcode system. Simply scan a few codes in the ChartBook, and notes and templates are completed in seconds. The Q'Notes portable modules facilitate basic notes and visits, including those made at nursing homes or satellite locations. For the offices that want a simple, basic CPR software without all the podiatric bells and whistles, Quick Notes recommends their Q'Notes Transcription CPR.

What does it cost?

Q'Power starts at \$1995 for a single user location. The Q'Notes portable Touchscreen system starts at \$1395 (PDA not included). Barcode systems typically start at \$1595 (also not including the scanners). Additional modules and licenses can be added, and you can purchase PDA's like the color Sony Clie either through Quick Notes or at your local stores. A digital signature can be added to each of these for \$100. Support can be purchased per incident or you can enroll in the Gold Support program for ongoing support that includes updates and discounts, for an annual cost of \$429. The entire Q'Power Suite starts at \$2695 (software only) and includes the Q'Power system and one of the portable Q'Notes solutions as well. Network applications are also available, starting at \$395. Web demonstrations are available over the Internet, by appointment.

(800) 899-2468

[www.qnotes.com](http://www.qnotes.com)

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Quick Practice (Standard, Deluxe, Professional)

Product type: Practice Management Software

Publisher: Practice Pro Software Systems, Inc. (Long Island, NY) founded in 1988.

Requirements: Any computer running Windows 95 or greater, though the faster and bigger hard drive the better.

What is it?

Quick Practice is a medical billing/practice management application which offers an integrated HIPAA-compliant electronic billing service. Available in 3 levels, standard, deluxe and professional, this product offers varying levels of features that include medical billing, and the management of patient records and daily activity within the practice.

How Does it Work?

The interface was well designed with easy-to-recognize icons and a tool bar providing access to commonly used functions. The software was written on a newer Windows platform and is organized similar to most Windows programs. Entering information is straightforward and there is an abundance of customizable fields. The Standard version offers basic billing with electronic claims available. Some of the standard features include tracking of referrals, day sheet reporting, code management and patient statements. The Deluxe version includes all of the standard features plus some added features, such as SOAP note creation and management, an appointment scheduler, customizable user fields, a ledger, and advanced billing options. All versions of QuickPractice come with user level security. The Professional version includes all the features of the Deluxe version plus an almost unlimited choice of billing options for both patient and insurance, graphical statistics of the practice, multiple fee scheduling, advanced control over charge entries, and as pop-up reminders. There are additional features such as digital X-ray and picture archiving, inventory control and a time clock that will be included in the up coming released version. The software is multi-user and can be networked as well. HIPAA compliant Electronic claim functionality is available..

What does it cost?

Quick Practice prices for a single doctor start at \$600 for the Standard version, \$1000 for the Deluxe and \$1600 for the Professional version. Additional licenses must be purchased for additional stations and network setups. Professional-level trial versions are available and can be converted to fully functional and supported versions with registration. Full-service support is available with Direct Connect through the Internet via high speed or modem. Support is based on the number of client computers and whether or not electronic claims are used.

(800) 676-3279

[www.quickpractice.com](http://www.quickpractice.com)

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SammyUSA / SimpleSam / SamNotes

Product Type: Practice Management Software / Electronic Medical Records

Publisher: ICS Software, Ltd. (Oceanside, NY) founded in 1986.

Requirements: Windows PC, Pentium IV, 1.8GHz or faster, at least 128MB of RAM, U.S. Robotics modem and HP laser printer, Zip drive

What is it?

SammyUSA and SimpleSam are podiatric practice management systems, while SamNotes is an electronic medical records program. All of the programs are available nationwide. The practice management software titles are similar to each other with a common interface, design and functionality. Depending upon the state, SammyUSA may or may not contain a direct Medicare module which enables autoposting of Medicare claims. SimpleSam is a stripped-down version of SammyUSA with fewer features and options.

How does it work?

The programs are Windows-based, and SimpleSam is Microsoft-Certified. The initial screen features a patient search field offering a variety of search criteria and buttons to help add new patients to the system. A tool bar at the top of the screen provides access to functions for entering information, creating day sheets and reports and adding data to the many libraries. Some interesting features are that each program automatically updates itself every 15 days (including new features and changes to the program), automatic resubmission of unpaid electronic claims every 30, 45 or 60 days. Real-time referrals and eligibility checking and autoposting of some commercial claims are available with SammyUSA. The letter generator, included only in SammyUSA, offers numerous customizable templates for rapid letter creation and prescription writing. Appointments can be made by using the appointment calendar, a feature not included with SimpleSam. In addition, advanced features such as label creation, customizable reports, personal and claim memos, picture import, reminders, patient filing cabinet (enabling a paperless office) and patient diagnosis/procedure lookup are features not included with the SimpleSam. One feature common to all three is a timer indicating when a patient can come back after routine foot care.

SamNotes is the electronic medical records application and is completely integrated with SammyUSA and SimpleSam. Along with the patient filing cabinet, SamNotes enables the podiatrist to become completely paperless. By using existing templates, the podiatrist can rapidly create notes using existing words, phrases and blocks of text or by entering free text. The active note appears on the left side of the screen with available templates listed down the right side. The note is then saved in Word format and is viewable in Word or Sammy later on. A dictionary and other common word processing features are included.

What does it cost?

The pricing for these products is as follows: \$7,500 for single-user SammyUSA (without direct Medicare), \$10,500 for single-user SammyUSA (with direct Medicare), \$1,995 for SimpleSam and \$3,500 for SamNotes. Those who purchase SimpleSam may apply their purchase price toward an upgrade to SammyUSA in the future. Support is free for all customers during the first year, and training is included in the price of the SammyUSA. After that, single-user SammyUSA support is an annual charge of \$1,000, and SimpleSam's annual support is \$250. There is an annual charge of \$600 for unlimited claims transmissions. All multi-user pricing is \$1,000 more than single-user, no matter how many additional computers there are. All programs support a zip drive backup. TouchTone Sam (\$3,500) is a brand new product integrated with SammyUSA. It calls patients by using up to 4 phone lines to remind them of upcoming appointments, displays confirmations, cancellations or requests to reschedule and uses a real human voice to call patients. For more information, check out on the web.

(516) 766-2129

[www.Sammy2000.com](http://www.Sammy2000.com)  
[www.SammyUSA.net](http://www.SammyUSA.net)  
[www.SimpleSam.net](http://www.SimpleSam.net)

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## Shorthand Pro

Product type: Patient Note Application

Publisher: Marc Mitnick, D.P.M.

Requirements: Any Windows PC

### What is it?

Shorthand Pro is a stand-alone patient note application that allows a doctor to easily create patient notes.

### How does it work?

Shorthand Pro excels at simplicity. To create a note, you simply choose the type of note you wish to create using the Shorthand Pro interface, and a series of screens walks you through the process, prompting you for information where required. You can choose to enter information from a menu of pre-existing standard selections on the right side of the screen, or you can enter your own text. The pre-existing selections include answers and info relevant to podiatry and are customizable so that you can add your own commonly used selections. As you progress from screen to screen, navigation buttons allow you to go forward and back between the screens to edit information. You may also cancel the note at any time or preview the completed note to make sure there are no mistakes. When the note is complete it can be printed and placed in the patient's chart or saved as a discrete file similar to a Word document. Shorthand Pro does not currently offer any networking or data-archiving features.

### What does it cost?

Shorthand Pro retails for \$349. Support is free because the product is so simple and there is so little to worry about.

(908) 522-0761  
[www.footspecialist.net](http://www.footspecialist.net)

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## Smart XP

Product Type: Practice Management Software

Publisher: Cove Hill Group. (Huntington, NY)

Requirements: Windows XP and computer fast enough to run this operating system

What is it?

Smart XP is a practice management application that combines both paper and electronic billing as well as a patient appointments, notes, automatic letter generation and digital photograph storage system.

How does it work?

The software is Windows-based, featuring a tool bar with icons to access commonly used functions and data entry screens with tabs to navigate the different fields. The software provides the podiatrist or billing company the ability to maintain patient insurance information and track referrals, and ledgers to track charges. Previous visit billing patterns can be copied and pasted into the current visit to save time. This program also has a letter generator producible with macros and stored addresses, or created with free text quickly at the time of visit. Macros can be created to quickly generate notes for common treatments and diagnoses. Practice-related statistics can be tracked in a number of ways, including graphs, charts and customized reports. There is an integrated prescription writer and appointment scheduler. Third-party appointment schedulers, such as Microsoft Schedule Plus, can be used to replace the included scheduler. The included patient note system allows for the inclusion and storage of digital pictures, and works with voice dictation software. Submission of electronic claims requires an additional component that allows claims to be submitted to Medicare for free, as well as to many other insurance carriers.

What does it cost?

The basic software package is currently priced at \$5000 and the electronic claims component can be added for an additional \$2000 but is negotiable. A computer visual demo is available and in-office demos are offered in New York and New Jersey. Data conversion from other software products is offered for a modest fee although not all data formats can be converted. The software can be ordered in multi-user versions and placed on a network for an additional cost. Support is \$1000 a year and includes all upgrades and electronic billing fees.

(800) 92-SMART

[www.covehill.com](http://www.covehill.com)

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SOAPware

Product type: Electronic Medical Records

Publisher: DOCS (Springdale, AR)

Requirements: Pentium III 400MHz computer with 128 MG of RAM but a Pentium 4 running at 1.8 GHZ is better. Server configuration should be discussed according to the office's setup

What is it?

A practicing family-practice physician created SOAPware, "the software with a medical degree", in 1995. The software is an electronic medical record application similar to Charting Plus,

including a variety of modules that can be added to customize and expand the software's functionality. It is easily customized for podiatry needs.

How does it work?

SOAPware is organized much like a paper chart, with the screen divided vertically into left and right pages. The note is comprised of multiple pages, each page corresponding to a standard SOAP field. At the top of the screen a menu of text and icons provides access to common functions. Just below this menu a series of tabs allow for the podiatrist to switch between the various fields of the note. Entry of information can be performed using either standardized templates or free text. Dragon Naturally Speaking Medical edition will also work. Standard features include a to-do list, prescription writing, phone message recording, multiple report filing, customizable tool bars, codes and reports. Some other features that help organize the office include an embedded patient handout creator and the ability to print super bills.

What does it cost?

The basic SOAPware software costs \$300. Each doctor requires a separate license but the program can be placed on as many networked computers as desired for the same price. Support costs \$300 per year and includes updates and free technical support, with unlimited incidences and the integrated SOAPware security module.

Many additional modules are available for purchase to enhance the charting experience. An anatomical image module, including standard and customizable images, can be added for \$100. It allows the doctor to draw on screen pathology or describe future surgery using an image as a reference. The image can then be saved with the chart. A medical spellchecker module is available for \$100. A chart searching utility that allows doctors to search for specific populations and events can be had for \$200. And a health maintenance manager is also available to easily monitor preventative medical measures and maintain check lists for overdue patients, also \$200.

SOAPware will interface with outside practice management software with the purchase of DOCS Exchange. With DCOS ExchangeHL7, reports, such as lab results and radiology reports, can be automatically imported into SOAPware. Flow Sheets can be added to create customizable graphs representing any parameter the doctor wishes, for \$200. Printed images, reports, and loose papers usually cluttering the paper chart can be scanned and stored by purchasing Document Scanning for \$200 and character recognition for future editing can be performed with the purchase of an optical character recognition (OCR) add-on. Most optional modules receive a 20% discount if purchased with a SOAPware license.

800-455-7627

[www.docs.com](http://www.docs.com)

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Vox2Data

Product type: Electronic Medical Records

Publisher: Medical Voice Products

Requirements: Pentium 4 or faster, 256 MB Ram, Soundblaster or compatible sound card or faster, modem.

What is it?

Vox2data is an electronic medical record application that incorporates dictation, transcription, and voice recognition.

How does it work?

The Vox2Data interface is, like most Windows applications, comprised of icons along with some text menus and drop-down boxes. Unlike most applications, Vox2Data can be operated using voice commands, although a keyboard and mouse will also work. To create a note or letter, the physician can select one of the many included templates as a starting point. The text of the note can be dictated or typed using the keyboard. The note can then be signed and stored away or placed in a bin for later completion. Signed and completed notes can be amended at a later date. They may also be cloned to serve as the starting point for another visit. All templates are customizable and the doctor can create his or her own templates. The patient information includes twelve fields of information, which can be imported in a standard computer language from almost all current billing programs. Notes can be emailed upon completion directly from the program to save time. Written notes and letters from other formats can be imported into the program and included in the chart. Vox2data offers a program for the front desk staff that will permit the staff to enter demographic information, print notes, or add any information they might be responsible for. The data can be shared across an office network utilizing a central storage location. Security and HIPAA compliance is implemented on many levels. Password protection is enabled to guard unwanted entry to the charts as well as protection of encrypted notes. Notes are stored in a format that can be opened by only the program, providing further security.

What does it cost?

The pricing structure is based on the number of computer systems running the dictation software. If one system is desired for multiple doctors to dictate from, only one version of software need be purchased and is then placed on only one computer. The price for this setup is \$2,995 for software only. Software for a second dictation system increases the price to \$3,995 and for three systems it is \$5695. For each front staff workstation requested, the software price is \$399. Support is \$695 for a year for the first dictation workstation, \$200 for each additional and \$50 for each front staff workstation.

(800) 795-6256

[www.vox2data.com](http://www.vox2data.com)

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Wisdom/32 / CHARTstation 6.0

Product Type: Practice Management Software

Publisher: VitalWorks Inc. (Ridgefield, CT)

Requirements: Server: Windows Server, 1 GHz or faster , at least 512MB RAM;  
Workstations: Windows PC, 600 MHz or faster, at least 128MB RAM

What is it?

Wisdom/32 is a comprehensive Windows-based practice management application designed specifically for podiatrists. Wisdom/32 has the unique capability to fully integrate with CHARTstation 6.0, Vitalworks' comprehensive electronic medical records system, as well as Dragon Naturally Speaking voice dictation software. RapidServices, VitalWorks' comprehensive EDI product suite, provides electronic claims, remittance, statements, eligibility, and referrals.

How does it work?

Wisdom/32 is a Windows-based application with an easy-to-use graphical user interface. Icons and text menus allow you to select features and choose fields. Some of the features include advanced searches based on multiple criteria, pop-up reminders about remaining referrals, multiple reporting options, an integrated appointment scheduler, and memos on patients and their visits. Documents and referral letter templates can be created and customized within the program. The integrated appointment scheduler pops up patient demographics and information to help expedite patient care and account management. CHARTstation 6.0 is an electronic medical records system that allows patient demographic and appointment scheduling data to be imported from Wisdom/32 and charge and recall information to be exported back into Wisdom/32. CHARTstation features include a podiatry-specific knowledge base, medical history tracking, single screen intuitive templates, and a coding wizard.

What does it cost?

Wisdom/32 starts at \$6,750. CHARTstation starts at \$5,000, which includes the bi-directional interface with Wisdom/32. RapidServices are available for a monthly fee.

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While reviewing all available software titles would have been impossible, I hope that I have provided a useful overview. This article should serve as a guide for all podiatrists, whether they're starting out, upgrading, or looking to make a change.