ArcBITS Newsletter

ArcSys Hot Tip

An EHR must be in use during the entire 90-day period. Data must be reported for the entire 90 days; some measures require something to "be enabled" for the entire period, (e.g., a clinical decision support rule, drug formulary); and other measures have time frames attached, (e.g. provide a clinical summary within 3 business days), which would not be possible to accomplish retroactively.

We suggest that you take the pressure off by postponing meaningful use—and the receipt of your incentive—by just 3 months. If you begin reporting on January 1 instead, you will still have the opportunity to earn up to the full $44,000 over the 2012-2016 period. You can attest at the end of March and expect your incentive by May. This schedule has the additional advantage of allowing you to earn a 1% ePrescribing bonus for 2011, which you would forego if you earn an EHR incentive since you cannot collect both in the same reporting period

Certified!

Certification Test day finally arrived on 9/7/2011. After months of coding and internal testing, we were turning our hard developed efforts into the hands of our test proctor from the Drummond Group. The day started bright and early at 7:30 and never finished until close to 5pm.

In a nutshell, there are 35 "tests" that are evaluated for conformance to standards as defined by the Office of the National Coordinator. The Drummond Group, in turn, is known as an Authorized Testing and Certification Body. Hence, the big acronym in vogue is ONC-ATCB. The golden chalice among vendors who provide EMR software is to attain a certification. In order to do so, the vendor submits to the testing by an ATCB. There are now close to 1000 vendors who have been certified by various ATCBs.

We opted to work with the Drummond Group. They provided us with guidelines as to what they were expecting. Briefly, they wanted to see software that performed, did not appear to be in development, and had a sense of being robust. Subjective terms in some ways, but there are enough objective measures to make the entire testing process to be, in a word, grueling.

On the easy end of testing were things like creating a new user logon and then demonstrating that we couldn't create another user with the same name. An extension of this test was then demonstrating that we could assign privileges to this user such that we could constrain access. This was an easy test for us to demonstrate compliance because of the way Red

Planet interoperates with Mvbase.

Another relatively easy test was showing how we could generate an audit report showing who had changed data.

One objective of certification is to make certain that the software which doctors are going to be using in the future will have the functionality to exchange data with each other. Another goal is that the software has the ability to work with a doctor to improve outcomes and that these measures can be quantified.

This last test was perhaps the most strenuous for us. It requires inputting various scenarios (35 yo male, smoker, diabetic, obese) and running a measure. Our test proctor would then give us another example and we would run another measure. If your software is designed properly, then a given result would be generated. Our last test, #35, had 16 steps by itself. We choked on step #16. A bit disappointing, but we were able to figure out the problem and passed with flying colors a week later.
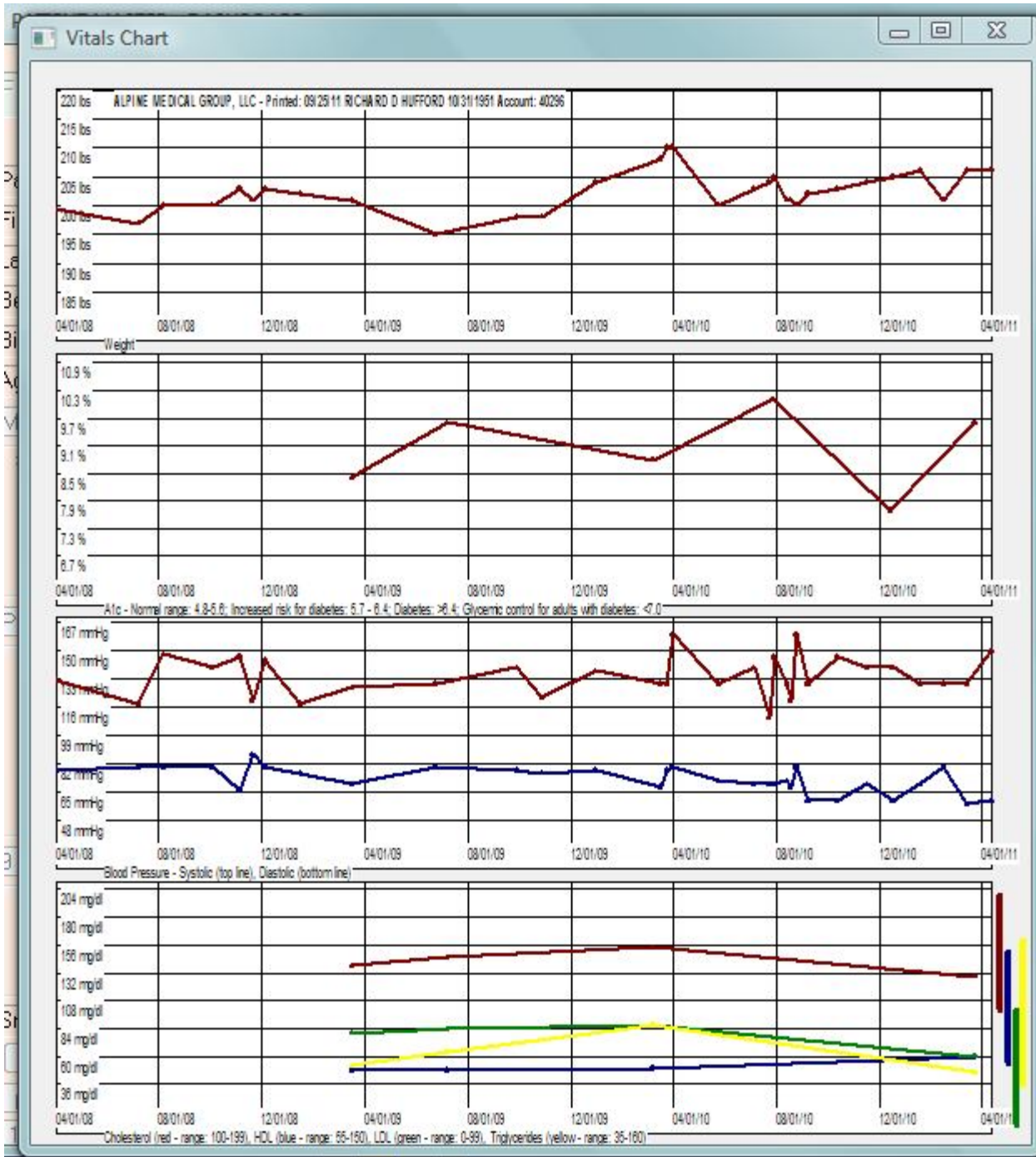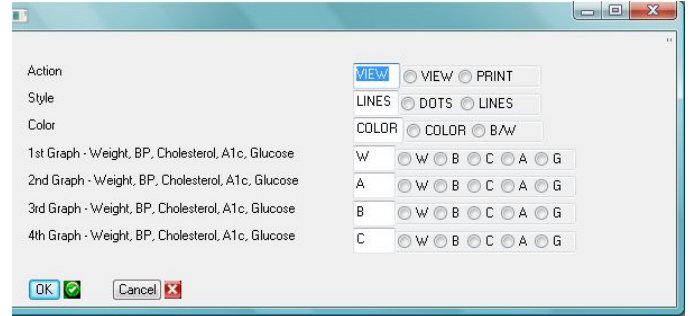
We are quite proud to say that we intimately know every line of code within Red Planet and understand to a profound depth what is required for a doctor to demonstrate meaningful use. Just as hard as it was for us to meet certification, it will be equally taxing for a doctor and their staff to meet MU. Again, in a word, it takes WORK.

Contact us to get your practice scheduled for the transition and hopefully qualify for stimulus money. The Stage One Meaningful Use can be achieved through 2012

Graphs

A new feature in the Red Planet EMR is the ability to present a graph showing the time trends for weight, blood pressure, lipids, and glucose, to name but a few. A button, VitalsChart, can be added to the bottom of the Dashboard screen. When clicked, it will bring up a screen (as seen on the right) allowing you to select which data elements you want to display. You may select up to four graphs to be displayed. Depending on whether your printer supports color, you may choose to display and print in B/W.

The vertical bars show the normal range for each of the listed lipid readings.