

# AllergyEHR Leads to a More Customer-Friendly and Environmentally-Conscious Practice



## The Situation: A Solo Practitioner Looking to Get Rid of Paper Records and Go Green

Allergy & Asthma Associates of Laredo, a small practice consisting of one physician, is located in Laredo, Texas. Established in 1983, Dr. Jane Unzeitig has been treating some of her patients for most of their lives, and has always been committed to giving them the best quality care possible. Prior to converting to AllergyEHR, Dr. Unzeitig was running her practice on a billing management system and paper patient charts.

While the practice was comfortable with using paper charts to record patients' history, Dr. Unzeitig knew that electronic records were the way of the future and would eliminate wasted paper and wasted time - ultimately making the practice more environmentally friendly and more efficient. Dr. Unzeitig was actually ahead of the curve as she was considering switching to an EHR ten years ago, but getting her husband, also a physician, onboard delayed her in making the transition.

"In addition to wanting to make the switch for quite some time, we were seeing more and more about EHRs in the news and they were becoming a marker for quality care," said Dr. Unzeitig. "We knew that if we didn't go electronic, the public could perceive that our quality of care and medicine was behind and we certainly didn't want that."

Dr. Unzeitig prides herself on the longevity of the relationships she is able to develop with many of her patients. With some patients having been treated for over thirty years, finding their history before visits had become a labor-intensive challenge of digging through hundreds of files. She knew that the ability to implement an effective EHR system would give the practice and staff a step up in the industry and save a lot of paper along the way.

## The Solution: Customizable, Allergy-specific EHR System

Dr. Unzeitig says of the initial search process, "I was going into my search completely blind to what was out there, so I didn't

## Practice profile

**Practice Name:** Allergy & Asthma Associates of Laredo

**Users:** 14

**Specialty:** Allergy and Asthma

**Time in practice:** 30 years

**Location:** Laredo, TX

**Snap Shot:** After 10 years of wanting to go electronic, this specialized allergy and asthma practice finally made the jump and went green with a paperless records system! Now Allergy & Asthma Associates of Laredo is providing an even higher level of quality care, while also benefitting the environment.

**Challenge:** The practice used paper charts for years and found themselves having to rent more and more storage space to house the increasing number of records. This made retrieving information a challenge. Additionally, with so much publicity on EHRs as a marker for quality care, Dr. Jane Unzeitig knew they needed to make the switch in order to keep up with the ever-changing industry.

**Solution:** The fully customizable AllergyEHR, with its allergy shot module, made the system the right choice. It helped them reduce wasted space, improve quality of care and protect the environment.

**Results:** Dr. Unzeitig is able to now provide an even greater quality of care to her patients using the EHR. A huge benefit to her was the ability to customize the system to exactly the way she likes to practice medicine.

### Benefits experienced:

really know what to look for. The one other allergist in town had not gone electronic yet and I didn't have anyone else to consult with."

Over time, Dr. Unzeitig continued to hear positive comments from other allergists who used Meditab's AllergyEHR at meetings and conferences, but she was still test-driving a few different systems and checking out all the features. What sold her on the Meditab system was that it was most the compatible EHR for her specialty and it included a comprehensive allergy shot module, which is what she really needed above everything else.

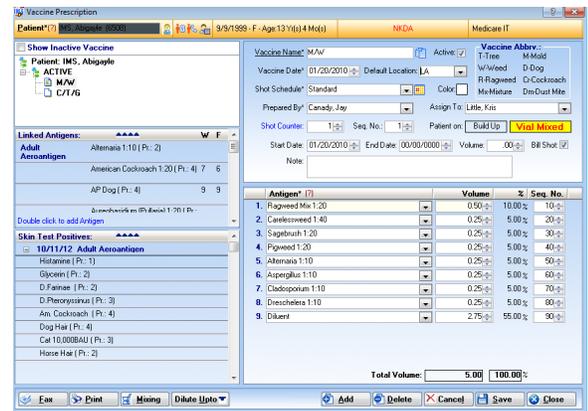
As part of her consultation process, Meditab arranged for the doctor to have three phone interviews with other allergists using the system, followed by a visit she coordinated herself with an allergist's office in Dallas in order to see the system in action. The allergist, Dr. Olmstead, welcomed Dr. Unzeitig to shadow his team for the day and witness the ways in which they implemented and used the system. Dr. Olmstead's willingness to show Dr. Unzeitig the ins-and-outs of AllergyEHR really gave her confidence in the system.

In preparation for her practice's own go-live with AllergyEHR, a Meditab representative came in for a week and helped teach the staff about the many features available to them, particularly the customization options. The staff felt very prepared for the transition and made sure to schedule a light patient load the day they went live. Both before and after implementing AllergyEHR in her own practice, Dr. Unzeitig and key members of her staff did a variety of different online training sessions that guided them step-by-step through various topics and demonstrations, allowing them to get comfortable with the system as a whole.

### The Outcome: More Complete Picture Provides Overall Better Quality of Care

Like any significant change, the initial transition to AllergyEHR was stressful. However, everyone on the staff has done well with the new system, regardless of their age and experience level. "I feel that learning how to effectively navigate an EHR system is very important for staff development," said Dr. Unzeitig. "Even if one of my employees might leave my practice and move on to another one, it's a good skill

- ✓ Received \$18,000 in MU incentives
- ✓ Improved quality of care overall
- ✓ Spent less time retrieving files and patient histories
- ✓ Complete customization to the unique way Dr. Unzeitig practices



*Prescribing antigens is easy to do with automated functionality built into AllergyEHR.*

## Case Study: Allergy & Asthma Associates of Laredo

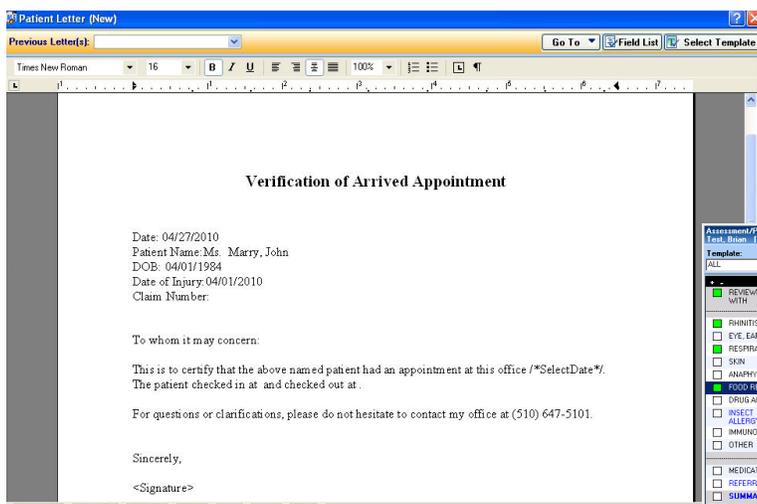
for them to have. Everyone is really happy because they learn something new and it brings them up another notch professionally."

One of the features Dr. Unzeitig has embraced the most is the template customization that AllergyEHR offers. She loves that the system organizes all labs, tests and updates in chronological order, eliminating the need to dig through pages of files. She has also taken advantage of the option to have specific information for each patient pop up upon every visit. As a result, Dr. Unzeitig gets a clear picture of the patient's history all in one place, which in turn makes patients feel more confident about their treatment. "Because I'm able to review their history in a quick glance before I go into the exam room and don't have to ask questions about any recent treatments or procedures, the patient feels more comfortable."

Additionally, the customization options help Dr. Unzeitig give her own voice to all communications coming out of her office. "With the options in AllergyEHR, as well as the Dragon speech recognition system I use, I can create sentences to sound the way that I talk. This is an important feature to me because as a practice that frequently consults and refers to other physicians, we're always sending out letters and I like that they don't have to sound generic."

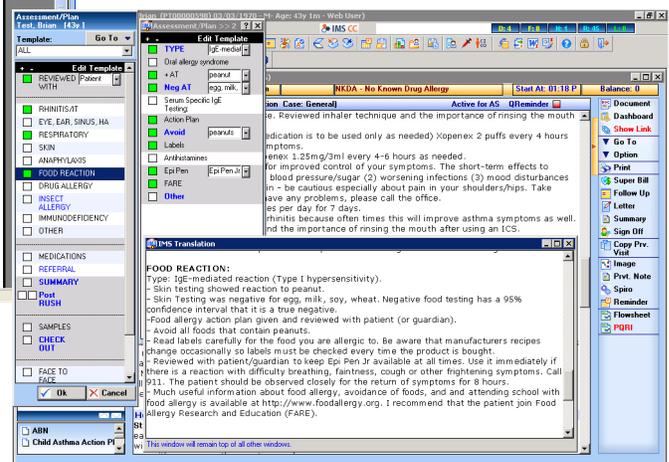
*"As a practice that frequently consults and refers to other physicians, we're always sending out letters and I like that they don't have to sound generic."*

**Dr. Jane Unzeitig**  
Allergist



*Fully customizable HPI templates empower you to document comprehensive care plans.*

*Create templates for referrals and other correspondence directly from within AllergyEHR.*



# Case Study: Allergy & Asthma Associates of Laredo

The staff at Allergy & Asthma Associates of Laredo finds the e-prescribing function very useful, as it tracks prescriptions and notes whether or not it was actually sent to the pharmacy, eliminating the need for patients to call and follow up. Before they started using AllergyEHR, if a patient misplaced his or her prescription, the staff had to spend time tracking and reissuing it, whereas now, it's easy to coordinate directly through the system.

With the help of AllergyEHR, Allergy & Asthma Associates of Laredo have been able to attest to and receive benefits from the Meaningful Use program. They received their first payment of \$18,000 this year and because of the easy-to-use tracking, they're confident they will continue to receive incentives for their compliance. Dr. Unzeitig is most satisfied with the improvement in the quality of the practice's level of care. With AllergyEHR, she feels happier, stronger, and really enjoys using the different features to offer the highest quality of care possible. The core of her practice is allergy education, and with AllergyEHR, she and her team are able to maximize the information they provide to their patients.



*Prescriptions can be ordered, mixed and transmitted to the patient's pharmacy of choice with just a few clicks of the mouse.*



*Easily provide clinical summaries and patient documentation required for Meaningful Use compliance.*

## About Meditab

Established in 1998, Meditab Software Inc., developers of IMS (Intelligent Medical Software), offers clinical automation systems that maximize productivity, advance patient care, manage utilization, and reduce costs. Meditab develops and supports a multi-award-winning, multicertified Electronic Health Records (EHR) system that combines clinical charting, e-prescribing, population management, decision support, practice analytics, document imaging and much more, on a single database platform. The company takes tremendous pride in providing comprehensive, user-friendly, and affordable solutions for each practice's unique needs. Time tested and proven, IMS generates tangible returns for medical practices of all sizes. Headquartered in Oakland, California, with offices across the globe, Meditab supports hundreds-of-thousands of users nationwide.



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