

Internet-Savvy Physicians Getting Addicted to Axolotl's Prescription Writer

Introduction

Axolotl Corporation provides clinical messaging solutions for independent physicians and their healthcare partners. Axolotl's Elysium product suite harnesses Internet, e-mail, and powerful automation technology to link physicians and improve both patient care and office efficiency. An open architecture standard, Elysium interfaces to existing hospital, laboratory, and other systems, and provides electronic results delivery, authorizations and referrals, workflow support, prescription writing and refill management, lab ordering, and other clinical automation components. Axolotl's clinical messaging solutions connect thousands of physicians and providers nationwide.

cations and adverse interactions and keep an ongoing list of drugs each patient is taking—and share it among all the providers caring for them, including the emergency room and the hospital.”

Now in the habit of using Axolotl's solutions, the doctor finds much greater ease in the online world. Placing new prescriptions and answering renewal requests, both of which can be e-mailed or faxed to participating pharmacies, are just the tip of the iceberg for the Elysium Prescription Writer.

“Computer access is much easier,” judges Dr. Leff, citing the prevention of adverse drug interaction as critical. “Information on interactions is just not easy to come by when going to a book like the Physicians' Desk Reference. This way, we can just check the two drugs we're interested in and the computer does the work.” He uses the exhaustive, accessible Elysium Prescription Writer to check for interactions on a regular basis. “Elysium comes with a very significant drug data-

“I'm now addicted,” exclaims Dr. Arnold Leff, “and I couldn't ever think about going back.” Dr. Leff's family practice and his colleagues throughout the Physicians Medical Group, an Independent Practice Association (IPA) in Santa Cruz, California, are indeed becoming avid users of Prescription Writing from Axolotl.

Dr. Leff was already a satisfied customer. His family practice had long relied on Axolotl's Internet- and intranet-ready Elysium system for such capabilities as online referrals and authorizations, laboratory and radiology results

delivery, and full-featured e-mail. So when he sought an easier means of managing prescriptions, he was easily hooked by the Elysium Prescription Writer.

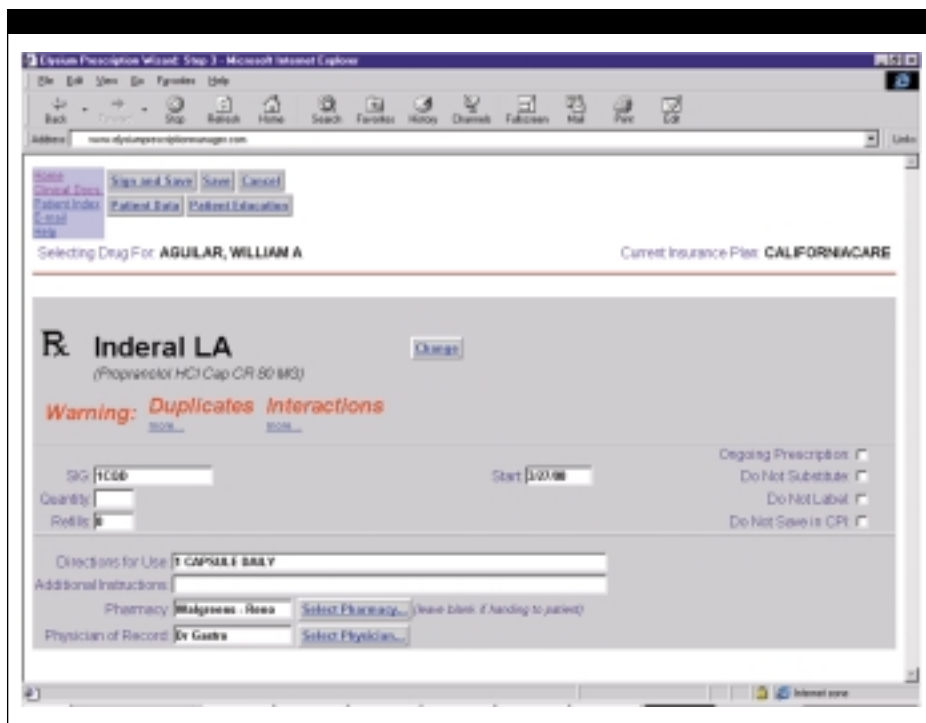
Accustomed to quality, Dr. Leff says his goals were two-fold. “One was to do away with paper—the less paper the better,” he recalls. “The second was in some ways the more important thing: to raise quality by making sure we could keep a record of all prescriptions and eventually have all the doctors in our 200-member IPA using the Elysium Prescription Writer. With it, we can avoid contraindi-

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use is on the decline. The fact that he can generate a prescription using the Elysium Prescription Writer as quickly as he could write it out by hand is, by itself, progress. As paper goes away, he continues, so does the likelihood of patients and providers misplacing important documents, such as scripts.

Physicians embrace Axolotl's Elysium products because they're designed by and for physicians. "Physicians get real benefits from using the Prescription Writer. And when members of the physician's supporting staff also use the system, Elysium further improves office workflow," Dr. Leff says.

"It's a quality improvement," he concludes emphatically. "Just using this system in any way is a quality improvement."

base," Dr. Leff relates. "My laptop's on my desk when I deal with patients, so I can go straight to a drug database when I want to check for interactions and so forth."

Elysium automatically flags potential interactions by linking to Dr. Leff's growing patient drug history files. And while the system searches patients' files for drug-drug conflicts, it also checks for complications due to age, disease state,

and duplication. A single click of the on-screen alert indicator takes users to the problem—and Dr. Leff has had a few. "In each case, I haven't really had to worry about the interaction, but I was glad to know that the Prescription Writer was worried about it," he laughs.

It's easy to become dependent on an Internet-based tool as easy to use as this one. For example,

the Elysium Prescription Writer intelligently helps the clinician complete the prescription form. "You don't have to fill in the name or any of that stuff," observes Dr. Leff, because it is pre-populated. "The choice of drug is just a click. And there are defaults for quantity, dose, and directions for the usual prescription for that specific drug, all of which you can easily modify."

In Dr. Leff's office, paper

