

THE HIDDEN COST OF PAPER

How much does relying on paper cost your HIM department?

Relying on paper doesn't just impede health information management (HIM) processes — it costs your organization money. Take a look below for the average cost of paper in patient records, coding, chart analysis and release of information.

PATIENT RECORDS



ANNUAL COST TO MANAGE AND STORE PAPER

\$1.6 MILLION

This number includes:

Average of **25** x **50,000** =

Average of **1,250,000** pages of documentation per month

Average **600,000** patient visits per year

Average of **15,000,000** pages of documentation per year

CODING

ANNUAL COST TO RETRIEVE PAPER FILES

\$420,000



This number includes:

\$0.35 PER MINUTE of one coder's time.

2 MINUTES to retrieve a paper chart.

600,000 patient visits to code.

\$44,000 average medical coder salary.

CHART ANALYSIS AND DEFICIENCY MANAGEMENT



ANNUAL COST IN PAPER FILE RETRIEVAL

\$564,000

This number includes:

\$0.47 PER MINUTE of one HIM analyst's time.

2 MINUTES to retrieve a paper chart.

600,000 charts to analyze.

\$59,000 average HIM analyst salary.

RELEASE OF INFORMATION

ANNUAL COST TO RETRIEVE PAPER FILES

\$52,000



This number includes:

\$0.26 PER MINUTE of ROI clerk's time.

10 MINUTES spent gathering paper documentation.

20,000 release of information requests per month.

\$33,000 average release-of-information clerk salary.

These numbers show only part of the true cost of paper, which also includes the costs associated with potential errors or penalties for HIPAA violations that result from misfiled or lost patient documentation. They also don't take into account the amount of time clinicians and staff spend waiting or searching for information.

Shred your organization's dependence on paper with OnBase.

Numbers are based on market research and data gathered from Hyland Software customers and reflect an example of the costs incurred at a larger IDN. Based on demographics, geography and organization type, costs may vary from those at your organization.

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