



Interfaces 101

What are Interfaces?

An interface is a tool that allows data from one system to be shared with a separate system. Interfaces can be extremely useful in preventing duplicate data entry in multiple electronic systems (e.g. patient demographics), as well as in creating efficiency by linking the various information related to each patient to reduce clicks and multiple searches. Physicians who use templated notes may also benefit from interfaces that allow their documentation to automatically generate an appropriate list of procedure and E&M codes in their billing system for review and submission. Depending on your subspecialty and the specific needs of your practice, there may be a variety of interfaces that could assist you and make your operations more efficient.

Why Differentiates a “Custom” Interface from a “Standard” Interface?

Unfortunately, the vast majority of the interfaces that are created for physician practices today are considered to be “custom” interfaces because they require a unique examination of where the source system stores a given set of data elements, how the source system communicates the location and status of those data points and where the destination system will store and display the same data elements. Cloud or internet based systems greatly reduce or eliminate the need for many custom interfaces because these systems have a much more standardized architecture. Standard interfaces may even be available to connect the standardized cloud products with external systems. Standardized interfaces are desirable in that they require significantly less time and expense to put in place. If your practice is confused about how or why to interface its systems, **We Can Help**. Give us a call and we can begin working with your practice today.

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