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EMRs Obscure Key Facts Needed for Care

A doctor writing in a medical journal says the long copy and paste notes of computerized medical records obscure key facts of care. Often the entire hospitalization history is written into every note every day, making each successive note longer and more difficult to read.

Sometimes the note begins in the morning and isn’t finished until the next day. Much has happened, but the length of the note hides it. For example, the fact that the patient almost died isn’t known unless one reads to the very end of the note. Expect lawsuits because there’s no time stamp on anything happening those 24 hours. Also expect patients to be harmed by lack of readability.