

# 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** pages per visit x **50,000** patient visits per month = **1,250,000** pages of documentation per month

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