

The reception screen also enables a user to check the status of patients in the medical exam rooms. The user can select (e.g., double-click on) a patient name from the lower box **1408** to display the status of the patient in an exam room, including a description of the service category (e.g., preventative care), the service description (e.g., vaccination), the time that the patient was checked into the exam room, and the elapsed time that the patient has spent in the exam room.

During the check out process, the receptionist returns any items left at the hospital, as reflected on a patient check in screen, which is accessible from a patient drop down menu at any time during operation of the system. The receptionist receives or confirms some form of payment and then checks the patient out of the hospital by selecting a check out option on the screen. When the receptionist checks the patient out, the patient's visit is over and the status of the patient is updated to reflect that the patient is checked out. At this point, the system discontinues tracking the time spent in the hospital.

Conclusion

While we have described the invention with reference to a specific implementation, we do not intend to limit the scope of the invention to this implementation. The system can be implemented in a client-server configuration, or in a single computer. In the latter case, both the client and server functions are performed on the same computer and the tables are maintained on this computer, rather than a remote server. The specific display format of the user interface screens can vary as well.

In view of the many possible embodiments to which the principles of our invention may be applied, it should be recognized that the illustrated embodiment is only a preferred example of the invention and should not be taken as a limitation on the scope of the invention. Rather, the scope of the invention is defined by the following claims. We therefore claim as our invention all that comes within the scope and spirit of these claims.

We claim:

1. A computer-implemented method for managing a medical exam, diagnosis, and treatment protocol of a patient, the method comprising:

displaying an interactive physical exam user interface on a display device;

in response to user selection during an interactive physical exam, displaying user interface screens that each guide the user through a part of the physical exam;

prompting a user to enter medical observations by displaying medical observations in the user interface screens and enabling the user to select from among the medical observations;

recording medical observations entered by the user in response to the user selecting from among the medical observations displayed in the user interface screens on the display device;

after receiving input indicating that the physical exam is complete, determining one or more possible diagnoses by matching the recorded observations with one or more ailments;

displaying possible diagnoses associated with the one or more ailments;

in response to the user selecting one of the displayed diagnoses, generating a treatment protocol for the diagnoses, and displaying the treatment protocol.

2. The method of claim **1** further including:

integrating the treatment protocol in subsequent patient visits by modifying user prompts presented to the user in a subsequent exam session to prompt the user to answer questions or enter medical observations related to the treatment protocol.

3. The method of claim **1** further including:

integrating the treatment protocol in subsequent patient visits by displaying status of scheduled therapy items in the interactive physical exam user interface along with a cost estimate of the scheduled therapy items.

4. The method of claim **1** further including:

scheduling therapy service items in the treatment protocol; and

in subsequent exam sessions, determined by user login, displaying the scheduled therapy service items and associated status.

5. The method of claim **1** further including:

displaying a graphical representation of anatomy of the patient;

in response to cursor input on the graphical representation of the anatomy, recording location of an abnormal medical observation and type of the abnormal medical observation.

6. The method of claim **1** further including:

presenting an interactive user interface to record medical attributes of a patient;

searching a list of patient education videos to find a video that corresponds to one or more of the medical attributes of the patient; and

playing the video corresponding to the medical attribute of the patient without explicit selection of a video by a user.

7. The method of claim **1** wherein the user interface screens guide the user through a complete physical exam before displaying a diagnoses by requiring the user to enter input acknowledging that the part of the physical exam associated with each user interface screen is complete.

8. A computer-implemented method for managing workflow in a medical facility, the method comprising:

displaying a plurality of different user interfaces on a display, where the user interfaces prompt a user for input about a patient and are associated with a stage in a visit of a patient to a medical facility;

guiding a user from one stage in the visit to a subsequent stage by requiring the user to enter patient data indicating that patient data has been observed before proceeding to a subsequent stage;

in response to user selection during an interactive physical exam, displaying user interface screens that each guide the user through a part of the physical exam;

recording the patient data in a medical record for the patient;

recording medical observations entered by the user in response to prompts for input displayed in the user interface screens on the display device;

after receiving input indicating that the physical exam is complete, determining one or more possible diagnoses by matching the recorded observations with one or more ailments;

displaying possible diagnoses associated with the one or more ailments;

updating patient status for the patient based on user input indicating that the patient has completed a stage in the visit; and