

2019 IHS Green Champion Award Winners

Operational Efficiency Award

IHS Physical Therapy Department Reduces Paper Waste with Electronic Management of Outpatient Consults

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At the Indian Health Services (IHS) Phoenix Indian Medical Center, all consults placed in Electronic Health Records for physical therapy outpatient services were set to automatically print a paper copy for records management purposes. The system was also designed to automatically print any updates every time a status change occurred. This resulted in at least 1,200 individual paper reports each month. The Physical Therapy staff at Phoenix Indian Medical Center initiated and implemented an environmentally friendly and cost savings process that removes automatic printing of patient consults, which are now exclusively performed electronically. This resulted in cost savings of \$1,600 annually in paper usage, toner costs and equipment longevity. This new on-site process complies with the sustainability goals of HHS, the IHS Phoenix Indian Medical Center, and EO 13834.