Varian Medical Systems, in partnership with Cogent Health Solutions, now offers a Web-based oncology portal that gives patients online access to their personal electronic medical record (EMR).

The Active Patient Portal lets patients access their oncology treatment summaries and review educational material about their specific diagnoses. Patients can also use the portal to manage appointments, and print and complete questionnaires assigned by the oncology care team. Convenient, on-demand access to these tools can help patients and their families play a more active role in the treatment process and gain a deeper understanding of their medical condition.

**Key features**

> Printable treatment summary  
> Diagnosis-specific educational materials  
> Appointment scheduling and reminders  
> Questionnaires and downloadable forms
Patients can use the Active Patient Portal to access information from their oncology EMR. Since this information is imported directly from the ARIA oncology information system, all appointments and treatment summaries are continuously updated throughout the course of treatment.

**Patient portal features**

**Treatment summary** – This feature provides patients with a summary of their disease characteristics. This longitudinal record includes all radiation, chemotherapy, hormone therapy, and surgical oncology procedures they have received to date.

**Education materials** – The Active Patient Portal contains a disease-specific Knowledge Base to help patients better understand and manage the effects of their treatment. Providers can customize education plans for each patient from a library of materials that contain information about side- and late-effects, health monitoring, and support services.

**Appointments** – The portal’s dashboard lists all consultation, treatment and follow-up appointments scheduled in ARIA and lets patients request new appointments or cancel existing appointments online.

**Forms/questionnaires** – Patients can download and print forms and questionnaires from their personal computer and complete them prior to their clinical appointments which may result in shorter, more efficient hospital visits.

**Patient portal benefits**

Ensuring that patients have reliable access to their personal health information is a central component in recent U.S. government legislation promoting the adoption and “meaningful use” of healthcare information technology. The Active Patient Portal gives your patients access to their personal health information at any time.

By providing a method for patients to access their health record, oncology departments can:

**Reduce administrative costs** – Patients can complete forms and questionnaires prior to arriving at the clinic and request appointments online.

**Enhance patient satisfaction** – By managing their appointments and learning more about their condition, patients can actively participate in their own care and well-being.

**Collect data for outcomes analysis** – Questionnaires can capture valuable information about targeted patient populations that can be aggregated to identify patterns and improve patient care.

**Provide secure data access** – Data security is ensured using Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) technology.

**Patient portal availability**

The Active Patient Portal is available exclusively with the ARIA oncology information system. ARIA was rated the number one oncology IT solution for two consecutive years by KLAS, an independent research firm specializing in monitoring and reporting on the performance of healthcare vendors.

**ARIA features and functionality**

- Activity, cost, and charge capture
- Chemotherapy management
- Clinical trials management
- Multi-modality image review
- Outcomes assessment
- Pharmacy preparation and dispensing
- Proton therapy support
- Radiation treatment management
- Rules-based clinical decision support
- Treatment plan and prescription management

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