SOFTWARE & TECH

Where To Find Ekg On Docucare

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Understanding EKG Access in the Docucare EHR System

Finding specific clinical data within an electronic health record (EHR) system can sometimes feel like searching for a needle in a digital haystack. For healthcare professionals using Docucare, locating an electrocardiogram (EKG or ECG) is a routine task that, when done efficiently, saves valuable time and improves patient care. Whether you are a seasoned nurse, a physician, or a medical assistant, knowing exactly where to find EKG on Docucare is essential for quick clinical decision-making. This guide provides a clear, step-by-step roadmap to help you navigate the system with confidence.

The Docucare platform is designed to centralize patient information, but its depth and breadth can be overwhelming. EKG results are typically stored in a specific section of the patient chart, separate from general notes or lab work. Understanding the logic behind the system's layout will help you retrieve these critical cardiac assessments in seconds. Let us explore the most reliable pathways to locate EKG data within Docucare, along with tips for troubleshooting common access issues.

The Primary Location: The Results Review Tab

The most common and straightforward place to find an EKG on Docucare is within the **Results Review**tab. This section acts as a centralized repository for all diagnostic test results, including laboratory data, imaging reports, and cardiac studies. When a patient undergoes an EKG, the tracing and the associated interpretation are usually filed here automatically.

To access this area, navigate to the patient's chart and click on the **Results Review** icon, often represented by a clipboard or a graph symbol. Once inside, you will typically see a list of result categories on the left-hand side of the screen. Look for a heading labeled **Cardiac**, **EKG**, or **ECG**. If you do not see these specific headings immediately, you may need to expand the list or adjust the date range filter to ensure older studies are visible.

Filtering for the Most Recent EKG

If a patient has multiple EKGs on file, the list can become lengthy. Docucare allows you to filter results by date or by specific test type. Using the date range filter at the top of the Results Review pane is an effective way to narrow your search. Simply set the start and end dates to cover the period of the suspected test. You can also use the search bar within the tab, typing in keywords such as **"EKG"** or **"12-lead"**to pull up only relevant results. This prevents you from having to scroll through unrelated lab values or radiology reports.

Navigating the Flowsheet for EKG Data

While the Results Review tab holds the full report, some users find it easier to locate EKG data within the patient's **Flowsheet**. The Flowsheet in Docucare is designed to display clinical data over time in a grid or list format. This is particularly useful for tracking changes in a patient's cardiac status across multiple visits.

To find the EKG here, open the Flowsheet from the main navigation bar. You will need to select the **Cardiac Diagnostics** or **ECG Summary**. The Flowsheet may not show the actual waveform image, but it will typically display the **interpretation**, the **heart rate**, the **PR interval**, the **QRS duration**, and any **abnormalities noted** by the interpreting physician. This is a great spot for a quick glance without opening the full report.

Customizing Your Flowsheet View

One of the strengths of Docucare is its customizability. If you frequently look for EKG data, you can customize your Flowsheet preferences to always show cardiac results. Consult your facility's IT support or your Docucare superuser to set up a personalized view. This ensures that the most recent EKG data is always visible at the top of your patient summary, drastically reducing the time spent navigating away from the main chart.

Locating the Actual EKG Image and Tracing

Finding the text report is one thing, but finding the actual scanned image or digital tracing of the EKG waveform is another. In many Docucare implementations, the image is attached as a separate document. You will often find this in the **Documents** or **Media** tab of the patient chart. Look for a document type labeled **EKG Tracing** or **12-Lead ECG**.

If the tracing was performed using a device that integrates directly with Docucare, it may appear as a link within the Results Review entry. Clicking on the result line will often launch a viewer that displays the waveform. For paper-based EKGs that are scanned and uploaded, the file will be a PDF or an image file (JPEG or PNG) located in the document list. Ensure your browser or device has the necessary plugins to view these files, such as a PDF reader.

Troubleshooting: When You Cannot Find the EKG

Occasionally, you may feel confident that an EKG was performed but cannot locate it in the standard locations. There are several common reasons for this, and knowing how to troubleshoot can save you from frustration.

Check the Encounter or Visit Context

Docucare often organizes data by specific encounters or visits. If you are viewing a patient's chart from a current inpatient stay, you may not see an EKG that was recorded during a prior outpatient visit. Switch your encounter context to the correct date or visit type. Look for a dropdown menu at the top of the chart that allows you to select a different encounter. Changing this setting will load the records associated with that specific visit.

Verify the EKG Was Ordered and Completed

Sometimes, an order may have been placed, but the test was never actually performed or resulted. Check the **Orders** tab to see if the EKG order is in a "Completed" or "Resulted" status. If the order is still "Pending" or "Ordered," the results may not yet be available. You may need to contact the EKG technician or the cardiology department to confirm whether the test was done and if it has been signed off by a physician.

Use the System-Wide Search Function

Docucare includes a powerful search function that can look across the entire patient chart. Look for a search bar within the chart header. Type in **"EKG"** or **"Electrocardiogram"** to prompt the system to search all sections of the chart, including notes, results, and documents. This is a broad but effective method for finding data that may have been misfiled or placed in an unexpected section.

Understanding EKG Result Components in Docucare

Once you have located the EKG, it is helpful to know what information the report typically contains. Docucare often displays the results in a structured format. Understanding these components allows you to quickly extract

the most relevant clinical data.

- Heart Rate and Rhythm: The report will always state the average heart rate and the underlying rhythm (e.g., normal sinus rhythm, atrial fibrillation).
- Interval Measurements: Key intervals such as the PR, QRS, and QT intervals are automatically measured by the EKG machine and included in the report. Docucare may display these numerically.
- Axis Determination: The report will indicate the cardiac axis (normal, left, right, or extreme).
- Interpretation/Impressions: This is the most critical part for clinical decision-making. The interpreting physician will note any abnormalities, such as ST-segment elevation, T-wave inversions, or evidence of prior infarction.
- Comparison to Previous EKGs: Many reports include a comparison statement, noting if there are any significant changes from a prior tracing. This is often found at the bottom of the report text.

Interpreting the Automated Measurements

It is important to remember that automated EKG readings are not always perfect. Docucare will display the machine's automatic interpretation, but the final, verified interpretation is the one signed by the physician. Rely on the **verified result** or the **attending interpretation**rather than the raw machine data for clinical decisions. The system often marks verified results with a specific icon or a different font color.

Best Practices for Efficient EKG Access

To make finding EKGs on Docucare a seamless part of your workflow, consider adopting these best practices. Efficiency in an EHR is often about knowing the shortcuts and default locations.

1. Use the "Favorites" or "Quick Links" Feature: Many Docucare versions allow you to create a list of favorite reports or sections. Add the Results Review tab to your favorites so you can jump to it directly from any patient chart.
2. Learn Your Facility's Configuration: Every hospital or clinic configures Docucare slightly differently. Some may place EKGs in a dedicated "Cardiology" folder, while others use a generic "Diagnostics" folder. Ask a colleague or your trainer for the specific layout used at your facility.
3. Always Verify the Patient Name and MRN: Before acting on any EKG result, confirm that the name and medical record number (MRN) on the report match the patient you are treating. This fundamental safety check is critical.
4. Pin Relevant Results: If a patient has a significant EKG finding, you can often "pin" or "flag" that result so it appears at the top of the list. This makes it easy to reference during rounds or follow-up visits.

Integration with Other Systems

In some healthcare environments, Docucare may be integrated with a separate cardiology information system. In these cases, the EKG tracing may not live directly within Docucare. Instead, you will find a **hyperlink** or a **reference number** in the Docucare results section that links out to the external system, such as a **MUSE** or **CardioServer**system. Clicking this link will typically open the full waveform report in a new window or a side panel. You may need to log in separately to the external system if single sign-on is not configured.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

Even experienced Docucare users can make errors when searching for EKG data. Being aware of these common pitfalls can help you avoid wasted time and potential clinical errors.

One frequent mistake is relying solely on the **Patient Summary**screen. While the summary shows a snapshot of recent vital signs and medications, it rarely displays detailed EKG results. Always dig deeper into the Results Review or Documents tab. Another common error is failing to update the date range. If you have not adjusted

the filter, you may only be seeing results from the last 24 hours, missing a critical EKG from three days ago. Finally, do not assume that the first EKG listed is the most recent one. Always sort the column by date to ensure you are viewing the latest tracing.

Conclusion

Locating an EKG on Docucare does not have to be a time-consuming puzzle. By focusing your search on the **Results Review** tab and the **Flowsheet**, and by understanding how the system organizes diagnostic data, you can retrieve critical cardiac information swiftly and accurately. Remember to check the encounter context, use the search function for misfiled reports, and always verify the interpreted results. With these strategies, you can navigate Docucare with confidence, ensuring that the EKG data you need is always within reach to support timely and effective patient care. Efficiency in documentation leads to better clinical focus, and knowing where to find EKG data is a key part of that equation.

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