





Lauryn Schimmel, managing director

CHARTACLOUD TECHNOLOGIES

Innovating With Robots and E-Records

The use of electronic health records and robots assisting in surgeries in health care is becoming more commonplace, but ChartaCloud sees plenty of market potential for those technologies in places often overlooked by others.

Launched a year and a half ago and self-funded by Managing Director Lauryn Schimmel and her husband Rob, ChartaCloud has two main technologies: creating and managing paperless forms, and a 2-foot high robot that helps explain medical procedures to and reduce anxiety in children and elderly patients.

ChartaCloud's main business is converting and processing formerly paper-based forms used in home health care settings into digital forms and integrating them into existing electronic medical records. This includes information gathered during home health care visits, such as blood pressure, temperature and notes on the patient's condition and medication.

The company is also growing a new technology division, ChartaCares, which uses a robot called MEDi to talk to children about medical procedures, such as drawing blood and IV insertion, and to tell stories and sing songs to reduce anxiety. It now has robots in three hospitals (including Alberta Children's Hospital in Canada) and a New Jersey dental practice. Schimmel hopes to also place them in nursing homes to interact with elderly patients and visiting grandchildren. MEDi can also help doctors and teachers connect with autistic children.

Schimmel says technology has mostly left home care agencies behind because

they have less money than hospitals, but as health care continues to merge, more hospitals will take over home health care and look for the accuracy and efficiency of electronic forms.

"It seems we are all over the place, but we are following technology. You always have to be ahead of the curve," says Lauryn Schimmel.

The company, headquartered in Portsmouth now has three home health care clients, all but one in NH. The process of converting and integrating the forms follows all HIPAA privacy regulations. It also has a handful of field service businesses as clients, including electricians, that don't have tablets and use smart pen technology created by ChartaCloud to write on special paper forms that are then converted to digital forms.

Schimmel started her career as an intern for a politician in Texas before switching to a job at an apartment rental company that used a NH company for its document management. Schimmel visited the Granite State on business and decided the Texas job "isn't my way to change the world." She was partly inspired to start her company by her father, who helped the IRS convert to e-filing.

ChartaCloud is profitable, though any revenue is poured back into the business. ChartaCloud charges clients \$10 to \$15 a month to convert forms. The robotics side of the business could prove to be more lucrative as one robot cost a couple hundred dollars. A handful of clients are now in testing phase with the robot. Schimmel hopes to double the number of customers every six months in the coming years. ■