In 2012 Dr. Laura Ganger opened her practice, Ganger Dermatology, in Ann Arbor Mich., with the goal to provide the best possible care and patient experience while staying on schedule. She has since grown the practice to nine providers and three locations. Having the proper technology, people and processes in place was crucial to achieving her goal so Dr. Ganger turned to Modernizing Medicine’s suite of solutions, modmed Dermatology, which includes the electronic health records (EHR) system, EMA®, Practice Management (PM) and Revenue Cycle Management (RCM) services.

“We implemented EMA at the outset and saw our very first patient with the system. I had been following Modernizing Medicine and EMA well before I started my practice and when I saw it in person at the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) meeting, I instantly knew it was the system we needed. I have been exposed to numerous EHR solutions throughout my career and none are as dermatology-specific and user-friendly as EMA. I also loved that it’s iPad-based and automatically generates the modifiers and procedure codes,” said Dr. Ganger.

“When we selected EMA in 2012, Modernizing Medicine’s PM system was not available at the time, so we elected to utilize a third-party billing service that also provided PM. That solution unfortunately fell short of our expectations. My staff was spending a significant amount of time managing our billing even though we were outsourcing that aspect. As soon as Modernizing Medicine announced their PM system at their annual users conference, MOMENTUM, we immediately signed up and began the move to an all-in-one solution inclusive of PM and their RCM services, which continues to be a decision well made.”
IMPROVED OFFICE FLOW AND EFFICIENCIES

By having this comprehensive system, Ganger Dermatology bridged the gap between the front and back office and improved communications. Whether it’s the front desk or medical assistant in an exam room, any part of the patient record can be updated, which saves time and adds efficiency to their workflow.

Dr. Angela Rondina, a dermatologist and clinical technology lead at the practice, said, “As one example, before we implemented Modernizing Medicine’s PM system, patients would often ask us in the exam room if they had an upcoming appointment, which we wouldn’t be able to answer. Now we can access the schedule directly from the iPad and have the ability to book an appointment. We can also see where patients are located throughout the office, when they’re ready to be seen, and then simply tap right into their chart, which saves time. We have this wonderful medical record and now a PM system to match.”

Chief Executive A.C. Ganger said, “With the modmed Dermatology suite, our staff no longer switches back and forth between different systems; all of the information is streamlined within one application. The need for multiple browsers and redundant data entry has been eliminated, making us much more accurate and efficient. We have insurance eligibility checked days before an appointment, which speeds up time at check-in. Our collections on patient responsibilities have dramatically improved because our staff is able to collect payment on the phone or prior to the visit, as any amounts due are clearly presented. Oversight is uncomplicated and every department can hold itself accountable as everything is transparent. We’ve been able to grow steadily since we opened five years ago and we have yet to hire an office manager. With the right tools, team and culture, I am still able to oversee this business on a part-time basis.”

THE PROOF IS IN THE BILLING METRICS

Ganger Dermatology has outsourced their billing operations from the start but discovered their previous vendor was not able to meet their high standards. Since implementing modmed Dermatology’s RCM services, the practice’s cash flow has improved, rejections are down to six percent, and the denial rate has been reduced to two percent.

A.C. said, “With our previous vendor, we spent countless hours going back and forth with insurance companies and had to process numerous checks in-house. Now with RCM, the insurance follow-up is handled for us and 99 percent of payments are electronically deposited, saving our staff hours of time every week.

“Also, prior to RCM, I had weekly financial meetings with our staff in addition to weekly vendor meetings, which were mainly spent combing through countless excel reports. Now, I have access to my key performance metrics in real-time, on-demand, and I can simply look at a dashboard overview or I can drill down to granular detail. I now participate in one monthly call with our Revenue Cycle Advisor to review the metrics I use to gauge success: communication flow between our teams, the number of days in accounts receivable, which we are currently at 31 days of the 45 day benchmark, whether coding is correct, and if appeals are completed quickly. The amount of staff training and effort on our end to achieve this is minimal, which is what sets modmed Dermatology’s RCM services apart from other billing services. We let the billing specialists do what they do best so we can focus on growing our practice efficiently and providing great care.”

CONTINUED PRODUCT EVOLUTION HELPS ACHIEVE GOALS

“What I love about Modernizing Medicine is that the company really takes our feedback and uses it to make the products better. Their goal is to develop products that are usable and helpful for us as physicians so we can take better care of our patients,” said Dr. Rondina.

A.C. also added, “My expectation is that our providers should be able to walk in the door, start seeing patients immediately and be completely finished with their day fifteen minutes after their last patient leaves the office. With the modmed Dermatology suite, we now have the tools that enable us to achieve that goal, which we do quite often.”

To learn more about the products Ganger Dermatology discussed, please request a demo at modmed.com or call 561.235.7501