

# Dragon 10 Medical – a Review

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**Note: for additional information on Dragon 10 Medical or to purchase a full copy or upgrade, please visit either of the links below:**

<http://www.SpeechRecSolutions.com>

<http://www.speechrecsolutions.com/naturallyspeaking.html>

With the recent release of Dragon 10 Medical, it may be useful for physicians and other medical practitioners currently using or contemplating use of the Medical version of NaturallySpeaking to know what to expect with this new release. I have extensively tested Dragon 10 Medical and two pre-release beta versions, using the software in the real world testing ground of a cardiology practice and gladly share some impressions. In addition, I have put together an on-line guide to the use of Dragon 10 Medical, [Guide to Using Dragon 10 Medical](#), which provides some detailed recommendation for use of this software for new medical users.

## New Features in the Medical Version

Many of the features new to the Standard, Preferred and Professional versions of Dragon 10 have already been reviewed. Features which I would highlight in the Medical version are:

1. Clearly increased speed: this is most noticeable in the reduced delay or latency from the time you stop talking until the words appear on your screen.
2. Increased accuracy: version 10 has clearly extended the accuracy of Dragon and this is particularly noticeable in the smaller, simpler words that are sometimes chosen in error. In Dragon 10 you will notice a dramatic reduction in the small word errors.
3. Improved general formatting options
4. The new availability of “Dragon Templates” or variable regions. These are areas of text ranging from nothing to complete sentences or paragraphs that are identified as variable regions by virtue of being surrounded by a defined character (by default this is left and right brackets – [] but you can change this to any character you want). By issuing the command “next variable” or “previous variable” you can sequentially move forward or backward through these regions in a document, with the entire bracketed sequence highlighted as you go. Once in a region, you can choose to keep the default text or dictate over the default. Issuing a single command will remove all the left over delimiting characters. If nothing else, this provides an easy mechanism

of navigating from field to field in a note. By the way, the “next variable” and “previous variable” commands can be programmed to buttons on a Dictaphone PowerMic II microphone and this allows rapid movement through a template note without speaking a word! See below for more on the PowerMic II integration.

5. Improved medical terminology formatting: For the first time Dragon offers you a robust choice of formatting options in a variety of categories, including:
  - a. Capitalization: Do you want “CODE BLUE” capitalized or not? Do you prefer PCO2 or pCO2? There are 18 choices of this nature in the formatting menu.
  - b. Numbers, units & dates: Do you want a space between mm and HG in describing pressures? Do you want Celsius and Fahrenheit written out or abbreviated? There are 16 different formatting options in this area.
  - c. Abbreviations: this is a huge and very helpful formatting category that lets you decide which abbreviations you want Dragon to automatically expand. For instance do you want “CHF” expanded to “congestive heart failure”? “SVG” expanded to “saphenous vein graft” and so on. There are literally hundreds of term for which you can set your preferences.
  - d. Miscellaneous Medical formatting: do you want “Orthopedics” and related words spelled with “ae”? Do you want q.o.d.” written as “every other day”? There are 25 such choices you can make.
6. Greatly expanded integration with the Dictaphone PowerMic II. This may be self-serving by Nuance/Dictaphone, but in my opinion a great enhancement nonetheless. This otherwise high quality and convenient hand-held microphone has been provided with its own screen on the options menu and allows each programmable key to be assigned any of 6 functions, including:
  - a. Applications: a button can be programmed to launch dictation box or the DragonBar menu
  - b. Dictation functions: a button can be assigned microphone on/off, press-to-talk, and a variety of other dictation function
  - c. Navigation function: among others, the ability to move forward or backwards through variable or navigation areas on a document, the ability to press the Cancel or OK button, and more.
  - d. Recognition modes: a button can be programmed to force a particular recognition mode such as force numbers, force dictation, force command recognition, etc.
  - e. Playback
  - f. **User Commands: This is huge. A key can be programmed to initiate any built in Dragon command or any user created command. If you’ve created a command which you use frequently and want to save your voice or prevent the risk of a misrecognition, simply program a button on the PowerMic to issue the command**

## Performance and Stability

I have experienced absolutely no issues related to freezing, crashing or compatibility issues with other software. As mentioned above, version 10 is notably faster and more accurate than version 9. Can I quantitate this? No. But the difference is so obvious that you will notice it immediately. Just as there was a dramatic improvement in accuracy in the version 8 to 9 transition, you will find a similar significant jump in the 9 to 10 upgrade.

## Use of Commands from Earlier Versions of Dragon

I have imported hundreds of commands which worked well in Dragon 9 directly into Dragon 10 and have found they work flawlessly. This includes text and graphics commands, normal advanced scripting commands, and advanced scripting commands use the DVC format.

## Downsides of Dragon 10 Medical

We have identified only one downside to the Version 10, and perhaps this may be an over statement. Nuance has made Dragon 10 Medical the only version that will work with common electronic medical records (EMRs). In the standard, preferred and professional versions ~~“select and say” capability in common EMRs has been specifically turned off.~~ use of the microphone is disabled when these common EMRs are detected. We consider this an unfortunate decision by Nuance and hope they will reconsider this.

## Conclusions

We have been extraordinarily impressed with the upgrade to 10. For the first time this is a version with more than just a medical vocabulary. It includes a number of formatting and other enhancements that will be truly useful to the medical practitioner. The improvement in speed and accuracy will make this a worthwhile investment. If you have contemplated the use of a hand-held microphone, the integration of Dragon 10 Medical with the PowerMic II makes this a great time to consider the switch to this microphone.