Realize More Value from MEDITECH

Overlaying integrated “physician friendly” applications on top of existing MEDITECH installations helps hospitals compete in their communities and attain meaningful use sooner

Many hospitals rely on MEDITECH as the technology foundation for the facility, and for good reason. Years of investment have gone into its implementation, and it does not demand heavy support. Functionally, it’s a workhorse — a solid, dependable way to process the thousands of data transactions that take place daily in a hospital.

MEDITECH Challenges for Physicians

Many physicians, accustomed to the more intuitive, point-and-click navigation of the applications they use at home and in office environments, have stated that they find MEDITECH’s traditional user interface difficult to navigate -- making it hard to access patient information quickly. Even with the release of MEDITECH 6.0, physician usability problems persist. While the interface design is more “contemporary,” physician efficiency remains an issue.

Further complicating physician adoption and use of HIS technology is the presence of additional departmental applications that create more complexity for physicians looking for patient information. A typical complaint from physicians is that they need to log into multiple systems on a regular basis to gather patient information or sign patient charts, which is perceived as an administrative hassle and a waste of their valuable time.

The proprietary nature of the MEDITECH system can also make data integration difficult. Physicians are forced to separately access information from ancillary systems, a fragmented and time-consuming way to gain a full clinical picture of a patient. As a result, physicians often avoid the system, and depend on nurses to extract and print out its data. This takes valuable time away from nurses’ interactions with patients, while affecting their productivity.

The overall result is a low physician adoption rate that significantly hampers a hospital’s ability to attain meaningful use, and creates a perception among physicians that the hospital is not keeping pace technologically with its competitors.

Improving the Physician Experience

Many hospitals have leveraged their substantial investment in MEDITECH by extending its value to physicians through a strategy of integration. Rather than allowing technology to become an obstacle for physicians, these innovative hospitals are improving the physicians’ experience with technology, thereby driving physician adoption and meaningful use. They are delivering information from the MEDITECH
system through a suite of integrated, physician-friendly applications. By adding physician-centric applications on top of existing hospital applications, facilities are affordably investing in physician satisfaction—a critical requirement in competitive hospital markets, and to attain meaningful use. And significantly, these physician applications do not alter or disrupt downstream systems or workflow for nurses and other professionals.

PatientKeeper delivers a suite of physician applications built on a platform with direct integration to MEDITECH Magic, MEDITECH Client/Server, and MEDITECH 6.0 designed to unlock the value of information in the MEDITECH system. PatientKeeper applications include:

- **CPOE** – a high-performance, physician-friendly CPOE solution that provides a more functional and flexible alternative to the CPOE application within MEDITECH’s Physician Care Manager (PCM), with a more rapid and cost-effective implementation;
- **NoteWriter™** – an electronic physician documentation solution providing functionality that is expected to be a required element for meaningful use Stage 2;
- **Charge Capture** – an electronic alternative to traditional paper-based physician charge capture processes, which streamlines billing and improves revenue management; and

Ten other clinical and administrative applications, all designed with physician workflow in mind.

Deploying PatientKeeper on top of MEDITECH:

- Increases physician adoption of the HIS systems a hospital already has in place
- Eliminates the need for costly third-party interfaces;
- Provides a business continuity solution for planned and unplanned MEDITECH downtime;
- Brings MEDITECH patient data together with outpatient system information for community health information exchange (HIE);
- Presents a more intuitive user interface for physicians and other users;
- Lets physicians work anytime, anywhere;
- Presents patient data from MEDITECH with information from ancillary systems such as PACS, EKG, lab, and e-prescribing for single access and sign-on through a Web portal or mobile device; and
- Allows hospitals flexibility in attesting to meaningful use – through a “hybrid model” that combines ONC-ATCB certified “Modular EHRs” from PatientKeeper and MEDITECH, or using PatientKeeper’s certified “Complete EHR” for all meaningful use objectives.

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Extending and Enhancing MEDITECH

Physicians depend on access to patient information for countless activities: placing orders, prescribing, rounding and much more. And in a world where mobile computing is becoming the norm, giving physicians access to clinical data anywhere, at any time, can be a valuable differentiator for a hospital.

PatientKeeper overcomes the traditional navigation challenges of MEDITECH to give physicians point-and-click access to all patient data in a unified view through a wide range of popular computing devices, including PCs, tablets, and smartphones. Physicians can keep abreast of their patients’ status, whether they are on a patient unit, in a hospital hallway, at their private practice, at a child’s soccer game, or at home.

In addition, PatientKeeper presents this data in a way that works best for physicians, with a single log-on and an intuitive, customizable interface granting streamlined access to clinical data from multiple sources. This solution avoids the need for nursing staff to compile information for physicians, and provides a number of benefits for physicians:

- Single log-on replaces the need to sign in to different systems, locate a patient, obtain information, sign out, and then repeat the process with another system;
- Physicians can configure the user interface to fit their specific workflow. A hospitalist who rounds from the top floor of the facility down can organize his patient list for gravity rounding. Or an internist who begins her day checking on lab results can bring up a fishbone diagram, her preferred way to review results, with her first screen tap of the day;
- Unified access to more cohesive data – from picture archiving and communication systems (PACS), electrocardiogram machines and fetal monitors, for example – improves clinical workflow and patient care;
- Teams can collaborate on patient care with shared patient lists and access to clinical information;
- e-Signature gives physicians the time-saving freedom to electronically review, edit, and approve transcribed clinical documentation in MEDITECH from any PC with Internet access. The results are improved communications between medical records and physicians--and no missing dictations.

An alerting function keeps physicians apprised of any changes that may require action. In addition, PatientKeeper enables data interchange not only among multiple sites in the same hospital system but also across different organizations, which has important implications for communities that are building inter-system health information exchanges.

Providing a Downtime Solution and a Citrix Alternative

There is no room for system downtime in healthcare. Seamless access to patient data is critical—around the clock. Even if the downtime is scheduled, expensive workarounds are needed.
PatientKeeper provides a redundant clinical data repository that enables anywhere-anytime access to patient information. This is an economical and highly effective solution to ensure business continuity during both planned and unplanned system downtime. Furthermore, HIS upgrades are transparent to physicians who continue to enjoy the same suite of applications and user experience during and after the transition.

Along with the cost advantage of avoiding a separate downtime solution purchase, PatientKeeper portal and handheld information access reduces Citrix costs by enabling remote browser-based access to patient information without the need for additional Citrix clients for remote users.

**There is an Easier Way**

MEDITECH is a reliable hospital information system that contains a gold mine of patient information, but because it was not designed for physician workflow, few institutions are extracting its full value. By integrating MEDITECH information with PatientKeeper, hospitals are able to take physician satisfaction to a new level, provide integrated access to multiple clinical systems, and even participate in community information sharing. PatientKeeper helps hospitals down the “last mile” toward monetizing their MEDITECH investment by providing more useful clinical information, accessible to users from anywhere, at any time. This leads to greater physician satisfaction, more rapid physician adoption and meaningful use, and enhanced patient care.