→ # Memorial Healthcare System Continues to Drive the Benefits of its SmartLinx Medical Device Information System™

Context

In today's demanding healthcare environment, a truly successful technology implementation lives large. It must not only deliver on its promise, but must also pay it forward to benefit patient care enterprise-wide. Convinced of this, in 2012 Memorial Healthcare System executed on a major upgrade to an enterprise-wide Epic electronic medical record (EMR) system which, in turn, enabled an equally extensive Capsule SmartLinx Medical Device Information System™ (MDIS) implementation across multiple care environments throughout the hospital system.

"We had high expectations for integration in every setting and SmartLinx exceeded them all," says Lisa Levine, MSN, BSC, RN-BC, Supervisor of Clinical Systems for Memorial, who led the project. The hospital's previous EMR was limited in functionality and unable to support many of the advanced MDIS features Memorial desired—features it knew SmartLinx would continue to pay forward by enhancing the function of downstream IT systems. Additonally, Memorial planned a truly big, big-bang implementation that would reverberate across the entire hospital system that consolidated the implementation and go-live of both the Epic and Caspule systems.

Challenge

The MDIS project goals were broad, demanding the installation of a large inventory of device drivers that would keep pace with the rapidly changing device market. Supported by Epic's OpTime operating room management system, SmartLinx would make device integration a reality in

Memorial Healthcare System

Memorial Healthcare System has been a leader in providing high-quality medical care to South Florida residents since it was founded in 1953. With six hospitals and numerous ancillary facilities, it is the nation's third largest public healthcare system, highly regarded for its outstanding patient- and family-centered care. Flagship facility Memorial Regional Hospital (Hollywood, FL) ranks among the largest hospitals in the state. Nearby Memorial Regional Hospital South shares its commitment to leveraging the latest technology to deliver advanced medical care. Joe DiMaggio Children's Center provides a comprehensive array of pediatric services. Other hospitals meet a full range of needs in their local Florida communities.

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the OR, where complex anesthesia cart data was becoming increasingly difficult to record manually. In high acuity care areas, Memorial sought to integrate not only typical physiological monitor data but additional parameters to provide a more robust patient record. In low acuity areas, the hospital system also wanted to automate data collection and provide clinicians with near real time data using mobile spot check monitors. "With a commitment to remaining in the forefront of technology, Memorial sought a vendor that would continue to expand its system to keep pace with rapidly evolving healthcare technology. Also, key to our solution was the ability to harness the full value of medical device data for use in a variety of additional IT applications," Levine explains.

Experience successfully integrating with Epic's OpTime module was crucial to managing the dozens of data points generated by anesthesia equipment. The system also needed to support custom integration of optional physiological monitor fields to address nurses' desire for enhanced patient data. Clearly, identifying a robust, reliable and scalable MDIS solution was imperative for realizing the large multi-site hospital system's vision. So, too, was choosing a vendor partner that shared a commitment to making this a success.

Solution

Today, Capsule's SmartLinx Vitals Stream™ application seamlessly runs on over 250 Capsule Neurons to collect physiological monitor, ventilator, dialysis, and other device data in intensive care units. Vitals Stream also runs on mobile Neurons outside the ICU where continuous data monitoring is required. In the operating rooms, anesthesia carts are equipped to connect with SmartLinx and send anesthesia parameters to Epic's OpTime. And, over 500 Neurons run SmartLinx Chart Xpress™ in medical-surgical units to provide bedside connectivity and transmission of vital signs to the Epic EMR.

Clinicians are extremely enthusiastic about results. *"I can't do my job without it* is the typical reaction of anyone who has used the system more than a few months," notes Levine. "One of the first questions asked about any new equipment is whether it can be brought online with SmartLinx." Memorial is currently implementing an early warning scoring system to use device data to identify patients experiencing a serious decline in condition. The future may also hold MDIS data integration to other systems such as clinical decision support applications— ensuring that SmartLinx continues to expand its benefits throughout the hospital and help pay it forward for better future healthcare. "Capsule became a true partner and went well beyond expectations to meet our complex needs," Levine concluded.

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