



## How CIOs with MEDITECH are Putting Meaningful Use within Reach

The responsibility of meeting “meaningful use” standards falls squarely on the shoulders of healthcare IT. However, getting there will take much more than just infrastructure and software upgrades. David Blumenthal, National Coordinator for Healthcare IT, has consistently stated that the definition will center on improving patient care through technology, not just having technology in place.

That means the CIO’s responsibility will be more than just rolling out software. It will be critical that they evaluate technology solutions and choose the right ones to support truly better patient care. Then they have to prove to physicians, nurses and staff that they are a vital tool in providing the best care possible.

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Bayonne Medical Center

## **What MEDITECH Misses**

CIOs have to create a MEDITECH record that gives physicians all of a patient's information. But while MEDITECH is very good with patient data and structured information, it can miss important patient information that originates outside of it. Unstructured content like paper, faxes, images, photos, forms, etc., often elude even the best systems.

However, if physicians still have to go to paper charts or multiple applications outside of MEDITECH to get what they need, physician adoption and satisfaction rates will suffer. Worse yet, physicians could make a care decision without all the available information and put patients' safety at risk.

No matter how or where patient information originates, it has to be easy for physicians to get to it the moment they need it. Just scanning and archiving content isn't enough. IT has to figure out how to capture all of a patient's information and integrate it directly into MEDITECH.

## **Getting a Complete EHR with MEDITECH**

To capture the information most EHRs overlook, many hospitals are creating an enterprise content management (ECM) strategy. They are choosing an ECM solution that digitizes traditional paper records and integrates clinical content into MEDITECH.

With ECM, health information management departments scan in paper documents and ECM links it directly to MEDITECH. Then, users just double-click a button to bring up the documents related to that MEDITECH screen. Users retrieve clinical content, such as photos, PACs images and EKGs, in the same way.

By integrating an ECM solution like this, CIOs give physicians, nurses and staff a secure one-stop shop in MEDITECH, improving adoption and satisfaction. Caregivers will spend less time looking for information and more time with patients. With a full patient picture, they make the most informed care decisions.

## **Tie Documents, Data and Processes Together Organization-wide**

Upgrades are often very expensive and take one to two years to implement. MEDITECH hospitals across the country have realized that ECM solutions that tie together documents, data and processes are deployed quickly and for a fraction of the cost.

In addition, paper and disconnected systems aren't just a problem when hospitals try to reach meaningful use standards. Billing and accounts receivable, payroll and personnel, and accounts payable departments are all struggling with paper files and slow, manual processes. By using the same ECM system in these departments as clinical areas, CIOs create exponential value with one system. Areas across the hospital eliminate paper and automate processes to save time and money.

"In many instances, MEDITECH is the right technology to handle our data," said Dimitri Cruz, CIO at Bayonne Medical Center. "But the push to meet 'meaningful use' forced us to realize that it's not enough – we needed ECM...It brings

together data and paper-based content to not only create a more complete patient record, but also to help us work smarter in administrative departments. By going with ECM, we're getting more out of our current system and meeting the federal government's standards – and all for a third of the cost of upgrading MEDITECH."

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## **About the Author**

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