



Peninsula Regional Syncs Drug Data with MFN Interface

Customer Spotlight

Peninsula Regional Medical Center
Salisbury, MD
www.peninsula.org

Solution Spotlight

– MFN* Interface (Master File Notification)

* Minimum requirements for MFN are Connect-Rx software Version 6.8, and HMM software version 8.1, SP7, Patch 15.

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Overview

At 358 acute care beds, 30 transitional care beds and 28 newborn beds, Peninsula Regional Medical Center in Salisbury, MD, is the region's largest, most advanced tertiary care facility. The organization has received numerous national awards for the safety and care it provides patients and the outcomes they experience.

Challenges

Peninsula Regional established a bar-code foundation for its medication-use process in the late 1990s. The PakPlus-Rx® service packages medications in unit doses, and ROBOT-Rx® automates medication storage and retrieval. AcuDose-Rx® automated medication cabinets provide ready access for nursing. Soon after, the hospital introduced electronic medication administration records, followed in 2002 with the bar code medication administration system, now known as Horizon Admin-Rx™. The Horizon Meds Manager™ pharmacy information system serves as the central hub.

"One of the challenges we faced was keeping all of the medication NDCs (national drug codes) accurate in the disparate pharmacy automation system, clinical system, and pharmacy information system," said Pharmacy Automation Manager Craig Scott, R.Ph. "In order for the nurse to scan at the bedside, of course, that NDC has to be correct throughout each of those three systems. It begins in medication packaging, continues through ROBOT-Rx dispensing or cabinet stocking, and continues all the way to the bedside."

Scott said that due to formulary changes or wholesaler drug substitutions, as many as 15 drugs every week are considered new or have different NDCs or dissimilar names. Each drug change required entry into two systems—Connect-Rx® pharmacy automation system and the Horizon Meds Manager pharmacy information system. To ensure the drug data was in sync, Scott manually checked NDCs daily.

Answers

To resolve that issue, Scott worked with McKesson to beta test and then implement an MFN (master file notification) interface. The MFN serves as a formulary database change notification interface. Horizon Meds Manager serves as the "source of truth" for drug data, including NDCs, bar codes, drug names, and aliases. The MFN automatically syncs Connect-Rx data to mirror that of Horizon Meds Manager.

"Now there's standardization throughout all three of the systems," said Scott. "What we build in Horizon Meds Manager is seen in Horizon Admin-Rx by the nurses, and is also seen in Connect-Rx. The same drug name is going to be viewed throughout the medication-use process—from order entry, to the profiling view in AcuDose-Rx, to administration via Horizon Admin-Rx."

"The MFN has saved me one step each time I add an NDC number," he continued. "The formulary maintenance work in Connect-Rx has been decreased by about 95 percent. Now, you still have to go into Connect-Rx and enter the package size and thickness for the benefit of ROBOT-Rx, but that's a minor item."

In addition to increases in efficiency, the MFN enables an obvious decrease in the potential for medication restocking and dispensing errors.

Scott believes the optimal time to implement the MFN interface is prior to adoption of bar code medication administration systems. "If you're preparing to scan meds at the point of care, you should include MFN in your planning. You'll save yourself a lot of headaches down the road. But even if your time horizon for bar code medication administration is a year or longer, and you're using Horizon Meds Manager and Connect-Rx, you will benefit immediately from MFN."