

Beacon Partners' MEDITECH Clients Join List of HIMSS Stage 6 Adoption Achievers

Only 1.5% of the hospitals in the US have reached this level

from Rachel Hudspeth, Beacon Partners MEDITECH Professional Services Manager



The entire healthcare community is being encouraged to convert to Electronic Medical Records (EMR) systems not only for the provision of improved patient care and increased efficiencies, but also to qualify for incentives under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Through a process recognized by the federal government as the definitive measure of an organization's progress in adopting and implementing an EMR system, HIMSS Analytics collects, analyzes and evaluates healthcare organization data related to Information Technology.

Frederick Memorial Hospital (FMH) and Phelps County Regional Medical Center (PCRMC) are now officially recognized as HIMSS LEVEL 6 providers on the nationwide EMR adoption model ranking scale. This recognition, achieved with the help of Beacon Partners, positions FMH and PCRMC in the top 1% of hospitals nationwide for EMR technology usage and adoption.

FMH engaged Beacon Partners while implementing the MEDITECH Computerized Physician Order Entry (CPOE) and Bedside Medication Verification (BMV) as part of the eMAR application suite in September, 2008. The year-long engagement culminated in FMH's achieving LEVEL 6 status in September, 2009.

According to FMH VP and CIO, David Quirke, *Only 53 health systems in the country have attained Level 6 designation for EMR implementation. Our EMR systems improve efficiency by making patient information readily available to our care providers. With complete and immediate access to patient records, providers are able to provide better, faster, more personalized care, raising the level of both medical care and personal attention. An added advantage to EMR is that it has the potential to help reduce errors caused by paper-based systems.*

We were anticipating the MEDITECH MAGIC 5.5 to 5.6 upgrade to be a challenging project, but with Beacon Partners' help it went much smoother than expected. Our Go-Live date was on-time, within budget and successful.

- David Dawdy, CIO
PCRMC

Beacon Partners began working with PCRMC in 2005 on its EDM and CPOE implementation and strategic planning initiatives. Later, when PCRMC elected to upgrade from MEDITECH MAGIC version 5.5 to version 5.6 to help optimize efficiencies and better patient care, PCRMC once again sought out Beacon Partners' project management expertise. PCRMC was confident that implementing Advance Clinicals would lead to tangible improvements and that Beacon Partners would work closely with PCRMC's internal project manager to share knowledge, provide guidance and build PCRMC's own internal project management capabilities.

Beacon Partners and PCRMC worked closely with the PCRMC clinicians to get their feedback and verify that the new technologies were right for them. The implementation of Advanced Clinicals at PCRMC not only improved patient safety but also met the needs of clinicians who wanted to streamline their workflows with electronic documentation. In the year and a half since Beacon Partners helped implement PCRMC's Bedside Verification solution, nurses are scanning 84% of medications at the bedside. This has not only closed the medication loop to get PCRMC to Stage 6, but also improved patient safety during the medication administration process by reducing needless errors.

FMH and PCRMC relied on Beacon Partners in their goals of healthcare IT's support of high levels of automated patient care delivery, leading to strong system usage and patient safety. Their investments paid off. Both are now well on the way to qualifying as among the nation's first Meaningful Users.

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 An Independent Eye on MEDITECH

Health Information Exchange (HIE):

A primer to continue your governance journey along the physician-hospital alignment continuum

By Kevin Burchill, Esq., FACHE

The passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 has been ballyhooed as the greatest impetus to bring providers *together* based upon Health Information Technology (HIT) adoption. With a net-new investment of some \$19B to adopt Electronic Medical Record (EMR) technologies in hospitals, healthcare settings and physician offices, the pace of adoption is dictated by so-called incentive payments that begin in 2011. Organizations have been re-thinking short-term goals, revising intermediate capital and operating tactics and adjusting their longer-term strategies to include enhanced alignment efforts between and among providers utilizing HIEs as the basis for these relationships.

Like any sustainable long-term strategy, healthcare organizations need to consider a myriad of factors as they begin this journey. It has been often said that lawyers memorialize deals that business people strike. Relationships are the key to beginning these agreement-making processes. Hospital-hospital, physician-physician, physician-hospital are just the most obvious types of relations that could lead to effective governance structures surrounding HIEs by providers.

For more of this editorial viewpoint, go to:

Beacon Partners' ARRA/HITECH Resource Center

Case Study:

MEDITECH initiatives improve patient safety and quality of care at Fauquier Health

Beacon Partners has been an invaluable asset to Fauquier Health in each of our engagements. Their flexibility and superior MEDITECH knowledge are unsurpassed.

- Donna Staton, CIO
Fauquier Health

For more Case Studies go to:
Beacon Partners' Case Studies

Beacon Partners Client Sampling*

Arkansas Children's Hospital
Bozeman Deaconess Hospital
Bruyère Continuing Care
Christus Health System
Contra Costa Health Services
Cook Children's Health Care
Doylestown Hospital
Duke University Medical Center
Fauquier Hospital
Mercy Health System of Oklahoma
Partners HealthCare
Phelps County Regional Medical
Poudre Valley Health System
West Georgia Health System
White River Medical Center

*partial listing of current MEDITECH clients

In our next MEDITECH newsletter: Using MEDITECH MM To Track Your IT Equipment

To join our MEDITECH, Epic or GE Advisory Mailing List, email advisory@beaconpartners.com.

Beacon Partners consultants possess in-depth MEDITECH system knowledge, along with operational healthcare expertise gained from experience as senior employees of hospitals, information system vendors, healthcare providers and various other healthcare organizations. We offer expert assistance to enable your healthcare enterprise to maximize the functionality of the MEDITECH system and give you a competitive advantage.

Please visit <http://www.beaconpartners.com> and Beacon Partners' special healthcare information portal, <http://www.spotlightonhealthcare.com>.