



Iatric Systems

Magic and Client/Server Products and Services - NPR Report Writing



Updates! **An E-Newsletter from Iatric Systems**

Holiday Issue 2002

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Joel's MUSEings

Happy Holidays everyone! Now that the fall MUSE season is over, it is time to reflect on the regional conferences. As usual it was wonderful to see familiar faces and meet new ones. For those of you who attended, I hope you found the conferences, and particularly our sessions, valuable. Attendance generally was down this year however. That is not good. At one conference, MUSE Treasurer Bob Becker asked the attendees why more people did not attend and most people answered that the reason was cost. While this is the answer that most people give, I am not sure it is the only answer. There seems to be two trends cutting into attendance. One is a movement to have short 1-2 day shows that you can drive to for the day. The second is a sense that there is nothing new and that its not worth attending. My suggestion is for you to talk about this with people who did attend. Did they learn anything of value? Did they discover a new product that they did not know about? Perhaps the key is to make your administrators know that this is one relatively inexpensive way to be able to keep current with industry trends and developments. Newsletters and web sites are nice, but there is always a role for face to face meetings and seeing products in action. Now is the time to start laying the groundwork for attending the next International MUSE conference in May in Anaheim, CA. I already have my plane ticket and hope to see

you there.

Case Study - Automated Discharge Instructions Saving Nurses Time

In the Spring of 2002, Little Company of Mary Hospital in Illinois set out to find a Discharge Instruction solution that would help to streamline the patient discharge process while improving patient satisfaction. According to Trish Hahn, MIS Nursing Coordinator, the hospital was aware through Press Ganey surveys that patients were interested in more information about their medications. The challenge was that nursing was required to type all medications including dose, frequency, route, etc. and it was a very time consuming part of the discharge process.

The hospital's search for a solution led them to Iatric Systems' *Patient Discharge Instruction* (PDI) application. PDI integrates with the Meditech HCIS and allows users to capitalize on information already available in the Pharmacy module. The final instructions can be customized and can include Drug Monographs. PDI also keeps a full audit-trail of all patient instructions and makes them available in PCI.

Since PDI is written using Magic NPR technology, implementation and user training is also streamlined. According to Trish, the implementation team trained nurses in the training lab for 30 minutes and "No follow-up was required because our users were already used to the Meditech screens."

Two months after implementation, the results are very positive. "Nursing is amazed at how much less time this takes to educate the patient on discharge medications. It takes 5 minutes to complete the documentation and it used to take at least 20 minutes!" states Trish. The hospital is now planning to roll this out to additional nursing units and to utilize additional functionality available within PDI.

For more information on *Patient Discharge Instructions*, you may visit us at <http://www.iatricsys.com/link.asp?URL=PDI.htm> or simply reply to this Newsletter and we will have someone contact you directly.

Meditech Ring Releases and Iatric Products

Coordinating Meditech Ring Releases is a critical function of the Information Systems staff. These events require significant planning and resources. Meditech's current movement to Service Pack releases will now increase the frequency of these events.

Iatric Systems would like to extend a friendly reminder to our customers to notify us when a new Ring Release/Service Pack has been loaded into your TEST Directory, as well as your projected LIVE date. Iatric Systems is committed to keeping our products and services current with Meditech's current releases. At times, this may include the need for mini-updates based on the enhancements delivered by Meditech. Advanced notification will allow all of us to plan and allocate the resources necessary to ensure a smooth transition to your next Ring Release/Service Pack.

New Webcasts for 2003

At the request of our current and prospective customers, Iatric Systems has created a new Webcast Series starting in January of 2003. This new Webcast series will feature our most popular product lines. Webcasts provide a casual and convenient opportunity to learn about available products and services designed to meet the common needs of your organization. The only requirements are a phone line, an internet connection and a little bit of time. Our product specialists will provide an interactive demonstration via the internet and answer any questions you may have.

To register for an upcoming webcast, please send an email to info@iatricsys.com. In the Subject line please enter "webcast" and in the body of the email please include your name, the facility you represent, your phone number, and the webcast you would like to attend.

DATE	TIME	PRODUCT
Tuesday, January 14	2:00 PM EDT	Patient Discharge Instructions
Tuesday, January 21	2:00 PM EDT	IatriScan
Tuesday, January 28	2:00 PM EDT	Visual Flowsheet
Tuesday, February 11	2:00 PM EDT	Event Notification System
Tuesday, February 18	2:00 PM EDT	Medical Necessity Ordermate
Tuesday, February 25	2:00 PM EDT	Physician Discharge Prescriptions
Tuesday, March 11	2:00 PM EDT	PalmCare

NPR Tips - Searching for Particular Drugs with a Pharmacy Report

Two aspects of records in the Pharmacy module make writing a report searching for orders for a particular medication a bit more involved. A Meditech standard program, and a bit of extra code in a macro can help.

The first issue is that the @med field on a pharmacy order is not always the significant medication on an order. For example, an IV can have additives, and the @med field for these types of orders is the carrier, and the significant medications are in the additive segment, a child of the main @pha.rx.file.

A second issue is that the @med field represents a mnemonic from the PHA.DRUG

dictionary. These mnemonics are created for each form and size of a particular medication. If you "hardcode" a list of medications, additions to the formulary can make your report less accurate. Users rarely think about the effects of dictionary changes on NPR reports, so it is better to design a report which is less likely to "break" when additions are made.

To solve the first issue, you can write your own code or use fragments to loop through the appropriate child segments of @pha.rx.file to check all the medications in an order. It is much easier to use a Meditech standard program:
%PHA.RX.compile.med.array.

You can call this program from a computed select field or macro as follows:
%PHA.RX.compile.med.array(@urn) or %PHA.RX.compile.med.array(urn).

The program makes a list in a temporary structure: /D[MED], where MED represents all the medications on an order.

To solve the second issue, you can select orders based on the @PHA.DRUG.generic field of the medication, rather than hard coding a list of medication mnemonics. In our experience, few pharmacy reports looking for patients on a particular medication also need to exclude certain drug mnemonics. An example might be a report looking for patients on anti-coagulant therapy, where only the larger doses of aspirin should be selected. Still it would be better to search for the generic in this report, but exclude certain drug mnemonics, rather than code a list of drug mnemonics, potentially missing new ones as they are added.

Here is how to design a computed select field to select patients on a certain drug.

Assume we prompt for a generic mnemonic with an IG type selection:

```
start.date          EQ    FROM DATE
start.date          EQ    TO DATE
PHA.GENERIC.mnemonic  IG    For Generic:
xx.ck               EQ    1
```

This will create the temp field: PHA.GENERIC.c.mnemonic, containing the users selected generic.

Define the select field xx.ck as follows:

```
DAT=FREE
LEN=1
VAL=IF{" "^OK,%PHA.RX.compile.med.array(urn),DO{+/D[PHA.DRUG.mnemonic]^PHA.DRUG.
VAL=mnemonic] IF{@PHA.DRUG.generic=PHA.GENERIC.c.mnemonic 1^OK}},OK}
```

An example report PHA.RX.zcus.is.select.order.by.generic has been added to our library.

Subscribing/Contacting Us

If this Newsletter has been forwarded to you and you would like to subscribe to future Iatric Newsletters, please visit our web site at www.iatricsys.com. Simply click on the "Signup for our Monthly Newsletter" button.

You may always reply to this Newsletter with questions or comments. However, if you would like to contact someone directly, please feel free to phone or email one of the names listed below.

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