

Mecosta County Medical Center Prepares to Attest in 2012, Saving Time Daily with Iatric Systems Meaningful Use Manager



- OBJECTIVE:** Mecosta County Medical Center (MCMC) is a 74-bed acute-care hospital in west-central Michigan. In order to meet its goal of attesting for Meaningful Use in 2012, the hospital's informatics team looked for a solution that would make it easier to qualify for incentive payments while improving delivery of patient care.
- SITUATION:** MCMC uses MEDITECH Client/Server as its Hospital Information System (HIS). The time required to create, run and examine MEDITECH reports to assemble Meaningful Use data would have meant hiring an additional full time employee (FTE)—out of the question for a small facility like MCMC.
- SOLUTION:** MCMC chose Iatric Systems Meaningful Use Manager to automatically extract Meaningful Use data from its HIS, calculate numerators, denominators and percentages and present the results on an easy-to-use dashboard. The hospital is also implementing additional Iatric Systems solutions to comply with individual measures, and information from those solutions provides input into Meaningful Use Manager.
- RESULTS:** Meaningful Use Manager is used daily by clinical staff responsible for specific objectives and can be viewed by others including executives and board members. The single-view dashboard allows many more people to participate in MCMC's Meaningful Use effort. The easy-to-use Iatric Systems solution is also enabling the hospital to stay on schedule for attestation in 2012 without an additional FTE.

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—Beth Langenburg
Clinical Informatics
Mecosta County
Medical Center



Mecosta County Medical Center (MCMC) is a 74-bed acute-care hospital serving Mecosta County and the surrounding area of central Michigan. MCMC plans to attest for Meaningful Use in 2012, and is putting tools and processes in place to comply with the various objectives. To manage their progress, they use Iatric Systems ONC-ATCB certified Meaningful Use Manager to extract relevant data from their MEDITECH Client/Server HIS, calculate results and display real-time compliance measurements on a simple dashboard.

“We realized early on that Meaningful Use Manager would provide our best chance at meeting Meaningful Use measures,” explains Beth Langenburg, Clinical Informatics Coordinator at Mecosta County Medical Center. “It’s simple to use, convenient for our core measure owners and a huge time-saver.”

Simplicity Saves an FTE...

When Beth and her colleagues started to investigate the requirements for Meaningful Use, they were alarmed at how much time would be needed to build and run MEDITECH reports used to measure compliance. “We have one NPR report writer who is already very busy. We realized we would probably have to add an FTE just to manage this project.” By simplifying Meaningful Use compliance, Meaningful Use Manager allows Mecosta to save their resources for other pressing needs.

Having Meaningful Use information readily available was an eye-opener. For example, the usage requirement for CPOE is 30%, and the on-screen dashboard showed that Mecosta’s CPOE compliance was in the 60% range. (“That was a nice surprise,” Beth adds.) However, Meaningful Use Manager also revealed that the BMI component of Vital Signs Monitoring (Objective 7) was not always captured. “Nursing wasn’t doing anything wrong; we just weren’t giving them the right assessment tools. Meaningful Use Manager made it very obvious where we had an issue so we could address it.”

....and Allows Everyone to Contribute

Point and click simplicity means that Meaningful Use information is available to anyone who needs it. “It can be used to simply learn about Meaningful Use and view our progress, while directors responsible for individual core measures know how to get behind the scenes,” Beth adds. She brings up another important point about simplicity—in addition to saving time, it helps avoid disruptions. If someone changes departments, Meaningful Use Manager is so easy to use that a new person can take over immediately. This same convenience is also available in the event of an audit, with all results and supporting data available instantly, for any date range.

Streamlining Meaningful Use with Iatric Systems

Beth and her colleagues now have Meaningful Use information at their fingertips—and don’t have to know how to build reports in order to get it. She’s also delighted with the service she gets from Iatric Systems. “When I have a question about Meaningful Use, I have an expert on call. Iatric Systems availability is top notch; it’s another area where they shine over other vendors.”

“If we didn’t have Meaningful Use Manager, I’m not sure we could meet our 2012 deadline,” Beth concludes. “I’ve spoken with other hospitals struggling to meet Meaningful Use, and told them they should get Meaningful Use Manager. It’s a real time-saver.”

To learn more about the ONC-ATCB certified Meaningful Use Manager tool and how it can help your organization meet Meaningful Use objectives, please contact us using the information below.

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