

Ephraim McDowell Health Uses iatricSystems™ Accelero Connect® To Integrate OB TraceVue with its EHR



OBJECTIVE: Ephraim McDowell Health is committed to integrating healthcare technologies to eliminate data silos and improve patient care and safety. As part of this effort, the hospital sought to automate the flow of maternal and fetal records captured in Philips OB TraceVue (now IntelliSpace Perinatal) to its Electronic Health Record (EHR). However, a barrier stood in the way.

SITUATION: Ephraim McDowell's EHR could only connect to one external data source for HL7 results, and the hospital had already connected a Philips AgiLink server to enable data from cardiac monitors to flow into the HIS. This meant that when a patient transferred out of the maternity care unit, Ephraim had to print the patient record created in OB TraceVue to make it available to clinicians in other departments.

SOLUTION: Ephraim McDowell turned to Accent on Integration® (AOI®) — now part of iatricSystems™ — to find a way to overcome this roadblock. AOI used its Accelero Connect® integration solution to enable results data from OB TraceVue and Philips AgiLink to flow into the EHR through the same connection, making patient data from both systems accessible from the HIS.

RESULTS: Caregivers now have instant access to OB TraceVue records from their EHR, saving time while improving patient care and safety in the maternity care, postpartum, and nursery units. Clinicians can trace the path of patient care without having to review paper records or re-enter data, resulting in more informed decisions and reducing the risk of errors. Ephraim can also take advantage of its EHR's reporting to perform in-depth analyses (staffing ratios, medication administration timelines, C-section rates, etc.) without having to manually extract and review the data from OB TraceVue.

"Before we sought AOI's* help, we were told by many integration professionals that this level of integration was not possible. AOI brought a level of expertise and out-of-the-box thinking that is rare in healthcare."

– Becky Blevins
Information Services
Project Manager,
Ephraim McDowell Health



Ephraim McDowell Health is an integrated health care delivery system made up of multiple facilities serving six counties in central Kentucky. As part of its commitment to provide the best possible patient care and safety, the health system is integrating its disparate technologies to eliminate data silos, eliminate duplicate data entry, and give clinicians seamless access to patient data.

For all these reasons, Ephraim sought to make maternal and fetal records captured in OB TraceView available within the hospital's Electronic Health Record (EHR). Historically, when a patient was transferred out of the maternity care unit, Ephraim had to print the patient record created in OB TraceVue to make it available to clinicians in other departments, such as postpartum and the nursery. The reason: its EHR could only connect to one external data source for HL7 results. That connection was already being used by a Philips AgiLink server delivering HL7 vital signs data from cardiac monitors.

Achieving the Impossible

Ephraim turned to Accent on Integration (AOI) — now part of iatricSystems — to determine how to overcome this roadblock. AOI used its Accelero Connect vendor-agnostic integration solution to provide a single HL7 connection into the EHR, with data from both OB TraceVue and Philips AgiLink. "Before we sought AOI's help, we were told by many integration professionals that this level of integration was not possible," explains Becky Blevins, Information Services Project Manager at Ephraim McDowell. "AOI brought a level of expertise and out-of-the-box thinking that is rare in healthcare."

Saving Time for Nurses

Clinicians across the hospital can now log in to their EHR and get complete and seamless access to information documented in OB TraceVue. "The interface has allowed us to utilize automatic data collection from OB TraceVue during admission, intrapartum, and recovery for both Caesarian sections and vaginal deliveries. This saves nurses a great deal of time because it eliminates manual data entry," says Vickie King, RN, MSN, Director of Women's Health Services at Ephraim.

Saving Time for Doctors

Anesthesiologists are especially pleased because vital signs and other values for OB patients going into surgery are readily accessible in the EHR. "This has saved time and created better patient care because I no longer have to look up vital signs since they auto-populate in the chart," says Dr. Anjum Bux, one of the hospital's anesthesiologists. "I can confidently make decisions about patient care with this information available."

By integrating OB TraceVue and its EHR, the hospital has also improved its post-anesthesia assessments and is better adhering to requirements established by The Joint Commission. "Pulling vital signs is one of the six criteria that must be completed for post-anesthesia assessments according to The Joint Commission," Becky notes. "Because of the automatic flow of information from OB TraceVue to our EHR, vital signs are being pulled 100 percent of the time. These standards are in place to help ensure patient care and safety, so knowing that we are meeting those requirements is an accomplishment that we're very proud of."

Bill Snapp, Chief Financial Officer at Ephraim, has the final word. "Our hospital is dedicated to delivering the best patient care possible, and AOI (now iatricSystems) is helping us do just that."

* Now iatricSystems

"AOI's* integration knowledge and expertise are great assets to Ephraim, especially as we strive to fully maximize each of the healthcare technologies we have in place to not only deliver quality patient care, but also meet current and future Meaningful Use requirements."

– Bill Snapp
Chief Financial Officer
Ephraim McDowell Health

iatricSystems recently acquired Accent on Integration® (AOI®), a leading provider of medical device integration solutions. Our combined forces help hospitals integrate medical devices with their EHR faster and cheaper than ever before, and help hospitals tackle complex integration projects that they didn't think were possible.