

Beatrice Community Hospital & Health Center Saves Time Tracking Meaningful Use Results from Disparate Health Systems Using iatricSystems™ Meaningful Use Manager™



- OBJECTIVE:** Beatrice Community Hospital & Health Center needed an efficient, accurate way to track and report Meaningful Use data from its Acute Care EHR and its third party Emergency Department (ED) system.
- SITUATION:** Beatrice is the largest rural hospital in southeastern Nebraska, providing patients from more than 150 communities with Skilled Healthcare Close to Home as well as state-of-the art technology. However, calculating Meaningful Use numbers from their McKesson Paragon® EHR, and a MEDHOST® ED system was a time-consuming process that involved accessing each system separately and combining the data.
- SOLUTION:** Beatrice now uses iatricSystems™ Meaningful Use Manager™ to track Meaningful Use events on both the EHR and the ED system, and report the combined results. The web-based dashboard provides a complete, real-time view of Meaningful Use status that all stakeholders can view together. Alerts to problems with numerator/denominator measures, drill down capabilities, links to CMS to view measure criteria, and the ability to add notes and attachments all help speed compliance. Beatrice also uses the Meaningful Use Manager Clinical Quality Measures (CQM) module to automatically generate CQM reports from data in both systems and submit via QRDA Category III electronic submission for 2014.
- RESULTS:** Meaningful Use Manager saves Beatrice staff significant time that was previously lost manually combining and calculating data from multiple systems. It also ensures accurate data for reporting, and in the event of an audit. It enables Beatrice to be more proactive, more prepared, more efficient, and more collaborative for the team effort that attestation depends on. Beatrice used Meaningful Use Manager to attest for Stage 1 after a late start, and now is using the iatricSystems tool to prepare for Stage 2.

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*– Patty Hortman, RN, MSN
Clinical Information Analyst
Beatrice Community Hospital
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Demonstrating compliance with Meaningful Use measures is a complicated exercise, but it's even more complex when data has to be assembled from healthcare systems that don't normally interact. That was the challenge facing Beatrice Community Hospital & Health Center, a 25-bed critical access facility serving more than 150 communities in southeastern Nebraska and northern Kansas. Trying to calculate relevant data from their McKesson Paragon EHR and MEDHOST Emergency Department (ED) system was a time-draining headache — that is, until they started using iatricSystems Meaningful Use Manager to monitor both systems and achieve compliance.

Meaningful Use Manager integrates seamlessly with any healthcare system (including McKesson and MEDHOST) to track Meaningful Use events, calculate measures, and provide a real-time view of compliance status on a convenient web dashboard. The approach not only saves Beatrice staff a great deal of time, it also ensures a level of accuracy by consistently pulling data from the same fields instead of having to compile results manually. Beatrice also uses the Meaningful Use Manager Clinical Quality Measures (CQM) module that queries both systems to provide numerator/denominator values and submission for Meaningful Use Quality Reports.

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Seeing Their Efforts Pay Off

“Our Meaningful Use workflow is much smoother than before,” says Patty Hortman, RN, MSN, Clinical Information Analyst at Beatrice Community Hospital & Health Center. “Using Meaningful Use Manager, we’re able to monitor the different measures and see the information we need all in one place.” Patty and her colleagues previously had to access each system individually, copy the data into a spreadsheet and manually calculate a reporting number. Meaningful Use Manager eliminates this time-consuming, error-prone process by automatically pulling the data from both systems and displaying the scores.

Patty appreciates the extensive functionality available on the dashboard, including daily problem alerts, the link to CMS to view criteria for each measure, the ability to add notes and attachments, and instant access to all information for reporting or in the event of an audit. She notes that Meaningful Use Manager’s drill-down capabilities are particularly helpful in quickly identifying the root cause of a problem. “For example, if a number is low for a specific measure, we can drill down into visits that failed and get right to the source to understand why they failed and what we need to do to improve.” Using Meaningful Use Manager, they also saw their efforts pay off. “We could see the numbers increasing daily and rising above the threshold,” Patty adds.

Visibility and Its Benefits

As a single source of accurate information, Meaningful Use Manager provides a valuable collaboration tool that enables stakeholders across the hospital to track results and plan improvements. “We meet weekly with the committee and view results on the screen together,” Patty says, adding that Meaningful Use Manager is not just a guide, it’s also a motivator that helped Beatrice attest for Stage 1 after a late start. “Having Meaningful Use Manager tell them the numbers weren’t good kicked them into gear.”

Beatrice is now using Meaningful Use Manager to prepare to attest for Stage 2 in 2014. “We’ll be more ready and proactive for Stage 2,” Patty adds. “We’re very happy we decided to go with this solution.”