

SUCCESS STORY

Lake Regional Health System Automates Reporting of Public Health Data with Iatric Systems Public Health Interfaces™



OBJECTIVE: Lake Regional Health System wanted to meet Stage 1 and Stage 2 Meaningful Use requirements for Public Health Interfaces, while eliminating the time-consuming task of faxing required data to Missouri's public health agency.

SITUATION: Located in Osage Beach, Missouri, Lake Regional is a 116-bed hospital that serves the Lake of the Ozarks region of Missouri with a full range of medical services. The hospital relies on Iatric Systems for managed interface services and guidance in developing and executing an effective Meaningful Use integration strategy.

SOLUTION: Lake Regional chose Iatric Systems Public Health Interfaces™ to automate the sending process of patient and clinical data to their public health agency, and meet three Stage 2 Meaningful Use Objectives. Lake Regional purchased all three Public Health Interfaces (Immunization Reporting, Lab Reportables, and Syndromic Surveillance) from Iatric Systems as a bundled solution.

RESULTS: With the help of Iatric Systems, the Syndromic Surveillance interface is now live, reporting potential community-based epidemics to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. Lake Regional is now working with Iatric Systems to implement the Lab Reportables and Immunization Reporting interfaces in preparation for Stage 2.

"Iatric Systems was instrumental in helping us understand what we needed to do — and didn't need to do — to meet Stage 1 requirements. They also did a really good job to help us prepare for Stage 2 and beyond."

— Scott Poest
Chief Information Officer
Lake Regional Health System

Lake Regional Health System is a 116-bed hospital that provides comprehensive healthcare services for the residents and visitors of the Lake of the Ozarks region of Missouri. The hospital needed to meet Meaningful Use requirements for Public Health Interfaces that extract data from clinical systems and deliver it electronically to public health agencies and registries. In addition to meeting Stage 1 and Stage 2 objectives, Lake Regional also wanted to save hospital staff time by eliminating faxing of public health data.

Lake Regional selected Iatric Systems Public Health Interfaces, purchasing all three public health reporting interfaces (Immunization Reporting, Lab Reportables, and Syndromic Surveillance) as a bundled solution. "We knew we needed the three Public Health Interfaces, and they had to be Meaningful Use certified," explains Scott Poest, CIO, Lake Regional Health System. "Iatric Systems was able to provide all three."

Guidance and Support

In addition to a certified product, Lake Regional knew they had a partner they could trust. "We've been an Iatric Systems customer for many years. We're very familiar with their professional knowledge, the quality of their implementations, and their high level of support," Scott adds.

Lake Regional also looks to Iatric Systems for leadership in complying with Meaningful Use, and this project would be no exception. "We were confident in their ability to be proactive and guide us through what needed to be done," Scott says. He also notes that their confidence would prove to be justified. "Iatric Systems was instrumental in helping us understand what we needed to do — and didn't need to do — to meet Stage 1 requirements. They also did a really good job to help us prepare for Stage 2 and beyond."

Syndromic Surveillance in Action

Syndromic Surveillance was implemented first. The Iatric Systems interface automatically reports on all appropriate admissions — with a focus on the Emergency Department — and transmits the admitting diagnosis and chief complaint to the Missouri public health agency in HL7 format.

Iatric Systems assigned an implementation specialist to the project, and Scott and his colleagues were not disappointed. "It was obvious that the specialist has done this many times in different states, and she had a very good understanding of what Missouri wanted."

With Syndromic Surveillance now live, Lake Regional is not just demonstrating it can send public health data — a Stage 1 requirement — but is sending the data in real time to meet the Stage 2 requirement. Iatric Systems Public Health Interfaces allow the hospital to automate manual processes previously used for reporting Syndromic Surveillance data. "We're now able to participate in Missouri's new electronic surveillance system, and also, of course, meet that Meaningful Use requirement," Scott observes.

One Down, Two to Go

Lake Regional is now preparing to implement Immunization Reporting and Lab Reportables interfaces, and Scott is looking forward to rolling out the two remaining interfaces. "Based on our experience with Iatric Systems on the first Public Health Interfaces, we're confident the other two will go just as smoothly."

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