

SUCCESS STORY

Ashe Memorial Hospital Successfully Attests to Stage 1 Meaningful Use with Meaningful Use Manager™ from Iatric Systems



- OBJECTIVE:** Ashe Memorial Hospital is a Critical Access Hospital (CAH) located in the northwestern corner of North Carolina. Nursing and IT leadership at the small rural hospital wanted to attest for Stage 1 Meaningful Use as quickly as possible in order to maximize incentive payments. Measuring compliance using the hospital's existing Health Information System (HIS) was an extremely time-consuming and labor-intensive process, so they looked for a certified tool that would make the cumbersome process easier and lead to earlier attestation.
- SITUATION:** Ashe Memorial's main HIS is MEDITECH MAGIC. Measuring Meaningful Use compliance using the MEDITECH system required building and running reports for each objective and calculating numerators and denominators manually each time the reports were run. Because of the time and complexity involved to assure accurate calculations, the Ashe Memorial team was concerned with meeting attestation audit requirements for Stage 1 in 2011.
- SOLUTION:** Ashe Memorial chose Iatric Systems Meaningful Use Manager™ to consolidate compliance data from its HIS, calculate numerators and denominators and present results on an intuitive dashboard. Real-time status displays, drill-down to problem areas and easy selection of the best 90-day results removed the complexity from demonstrating Meaningful Use.
- RESULTS:** With Meaningful Use Manager, Ashe Memorial attested for Stage 1 Meaningful Use in September 2011 and qualified for their incentive payment with the assurance that an auditable look back is available from an ONC-ATCB certified product. The solution's point-and-click simplicity will continue to be a huge time-saver as Ashe Memorial looks ahead to Stage 2 and the additional incentive payments that come with it.

"Meaningful Use Manager is a huge time-saver."

– Sara Houser, RN, MSN
Chief Nursing Officer
Ashe Memorial Hospital



Ashe Memorial Hospital is a 25-bed Critical Access Hospital located in Jefferson, North Carolina. The hospital leapfrogged many larger facilities when it attested for Stage 1 Meaningful Use in September 2011, thus qualifying for government incentives. Making it possible: Iatric Systems Meaningful Use Manager, a unique ONC-ATCB certified software solution that replaces tedious, error-prone manual reporting with an easy-to-use dashboard.

Meaningful Use Manager automatically extracts relevant data from Ashe Memorial's MEDITECH MAGIC HIS, calculates numerators, denominators and percentages and displays a real-time view of compliance status for all Meaningful Use objectives. With a few clicks, users can drill down to areas needing attention and also track compliance over a selected date range. The Iatric Systems tool is ONC-ATCB certified for any HIS including MEDITECH.

"Meaningful Use Manager is a huge time-saver," explains Sara Houser, Chief Nursing Officer, Ashe Memorial Hospital. "I can see where we stand at a glance, including areas we need to address as well as where to celebrate our success." This simplicity allowed Ashe Memorial to attest with confidence knowing that tracking for ongoing compliance is just a click away.

Reports Compliance Status—and Where Action is Needed

One of Sara's favorite features is the red, yellow and green "speedometer" format that indicates compliance (or lack of it) for each Meaningful Use objective. "If my dashboard is green, I'm having a great day," Sara says. "If an area is yellow or red I can drill down to see where we need to focus our educational efforts." (Menu Set objectives that the hospital chose not to report are indicated in gray, but the data is there in case Sara and her team decide to report on those objectives later.)

Sara can click on any objective to investigate areas needing attention. For example, for Objective 1, CPOE, she can see which physicians are not using the system. When deficiencies were identified, Sara was able to use these examples as teaching opportunities. After educating the staff about compliance requirements, she had the satisfaction of watching Ashe Memorial's results go from red to green. Sara also has assurance that the hospital is protected in case of an audit (a possibility for up to six years after attestation), because Meaningful Use Manager stores all compliance data and screen shots, which are available instantly for any date range.

Bringing the Incentives within Reach

Meaningful Use Manager replaced a tedious manual process of building, running and sifting through more than 20 MEDITECH reports. This exercise took two days or more and would have to be repeated each time Sara and her team wanted to review compliance status. Now the entire process is automatic and results are available instantly. Thanks to Meaningful Use Manager, complying with Meaningful Use is no longer a time-draining chore for Sara and her team.

Sara has some advice for other hospitals struggling to demonstrate Meaningful Use: "Get on the phone and talk to Iatric Systems. They have a very good understanding of Meaningful Use, the tools to get you there and a team dedicated to making it work for your hospital."

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

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