



CASE STUDY

Standardizing processes across the health system enables pharmacists to expand their role in clinical care

Pyxis® ES system and Pyxis Pharmogistics® inventory management software helps Ochsner Health System centrally manage medication inventory and dispensing, freeing up time for pharmacists.

With the goal of enabling pharmacists to play a more active role in patient care, Ochsner Health System in New Orleans, LA opted to integrate their HIT systems with the Pyxis® ES system and Pyxis Pharmogistics® inventory management software solutions.

Expanding the clinical role of the pharmacist

Providing patient-centered care and education is vital to reducing readmissions, length of stay (LOS) and healthcare costs. To assist in providing the best care possible, the role of pharmacist must quickly evolve. However, current pharmacy workload is significant—from

dispensing medications, managing the formulary and monitoring patient health to adding passwords and roles for new hires or removing users from the system. With so much to do, and limited time and resources, Ochsner turned to technology to help better optimize their processes. For example, implementing the Pyxis ES system with the web-accessible Pyxis Enterprise Server enables pharmacy resources to step out of the central pharmacy and remotely perform system activities from anywhere. Pharmacists are able to complete tasks from the floors while simultaneously providing direct care to patients and assistance to nurses.

“Pyxis ES is moving in the direction that we see our medication management moving in,” says Ginger Schnell, Pharmacy IT Manager. “That direction is the pharmacist providing assistance to clinical services—with our quality improvement group and technicians managing dispensing cabinets. We’re trying to move our pharmacists into more clinical roles and have our support staff facilitate the day-to-day functions. Pyxis ES gives us the flexibility to do that.”



Simplified user management

The Active Directory capabilities of the Pyxis ES system allows for greater centralization of user management for the health system. The pharmacy no longer needs to manage lost passwords, new hires or employee terminations. Users are now passed directly from Active Directory to the Pyxis Enterprise Server. The health system then assigns roles, granting users the appropriate permission and area access.

“Once they’re in Pyxis ES, each site can assign that nurse an area and a role at that hospital,” says Suzanne Warren, Director of Pharmacy. “Each hospital used to have their own method of assigning user names. So each nurse used to go to one hospital and have one user name, then go to another hospital and have another username. It was very confusing. Now no matter where they go it is the same username and password as their hospital username and password.”

A unified formulary

With Ochsner moving to standardize processes across its enterprise, there was a strong push for the system to establish one formulary across all sites. The integration between the Pyxis ES system and the Pharmacy Information System (PIS) resulted in one system formulary for the entire health system, which can still be adjusted as needed for each hospital.

“With separately managed systems, a single drug could be listed with eight different descriptions—no continuity. Now our central team can enter meds matching Epic with the same view of drug, no matter where they are or what system they are in. This gives users confidence that they have the right med for right patient at right time,” says Schnell.

**“If you’re part of a system,
it allows you to function as
a system with all your
Pyxis devices.”**

Suzanne Warren
Director of Pharmacy
Ochsner Baptist Medical Center

A single integration engine

In addition to saving pharmacists time previously spent managing user permissions and formularies, implementing the Pyxis ES system also led to savings in the technical management of the solution. Utilizing the CareFusion Coordination Engine, Ochsner can add functionality and devices as they grow.

“With Pyxis ES and Epic there isn’t nearly the level of manipulation required for the interface (*compared to the previous system*),” says Schnell. “There aren’t any custom pieces that we need for any one site. It’s all across the board. It was clean and easy to implement. Now, when we have a new site coming up, all we need to do is test a few orders. There really isn’t a lot of testing once you verify what’s working. That has made it so easy.”

About Ochsner

Ochsner Health System is one of the largest independent academic health systems in the United States and Louisiana’s largest not-for-profit health system. With 13 hospitals owned, managed and affiliated, more than 40 health centers, more than 15,000 employees, over 2,500 affiliated physicians in more than 90 medical specialties and subspecialties, Ochsner is Louisiana’s largest health system.

Note

* Ochsner results reflect the hospital system’s medication management process in combination with Pyxis technologies.

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