



**McLAREN PORT HURON**

## Overcoming Device Integration Challenges with a Streamlined Meditech/Capsule Solution

Addressing the growing demands of health care reform, in 2014 McLaren Port Huron replaced its existing EHR, with a state-of-the-art MU2 certified Meditech system. The technology-forward hospital already had been enjoying the benefits of medical device integration (MDI) in its ICU with a direct feed from patient monitors into its existing electronic health record (EHR) system. Nurses were extremely enthusiastic about the benefits and felt losing them would represent a major step backwards. However, the new patient-centric Meditech technology did not support the same direct patient/device registration as the existing system. Therefore, the medical device integration solution also had to be replaced—quickly and seamlessly to keep electronic data moving to the patient record. Technology is rarely as straightforward as it seems—McLaren Port Huron's project stands as proof.

McLaren Port Huron is a 186-bed nonprofit hospital located in Port Huron, Michigan. A community hospital founded in 1882, it has a strong history of providing quality, compassionate care to residents living in St. Clair and Sanilac counties and has earned repeated recognition for both clinical excellence and patient safety from nationally renowned health care rating organizations. McLaren Port Huron makes many health care specialties available to area residents, including cardiovascular care, orthopedic care, and general, bariatric and robotic-assisted surgeries. Also available at the hospital are board-certified emergency physicians and nurses who staff the county's busiest emergency center, family birthing services and the only accredited sleep center in the region.

## CHALLENGE

Despite its size, McLaren Port Huron had expansive goals for its MDI replacement project—and it faced major challenges. First, from a technology standpoint, the hospital needed a system that would manage patient association through location matching prior to sending data to the patient record to meet the needs of its new Meditech system. It also needed an MDI that was reliable, scalable and cost-effective to make the most of its budget. The latter meant supporting its existing medical devices, while offering the flexibility to take the hospital into the future as device integration expanded with new equipment categories and vendors.

Logistics and resources also added significantly to the challenges. The MDI and EHR installations were scheduled to take place simultaneously. Moreover, the MDI project was to be completed in just eight weeks by a small in-house team—while the ICU was in continuous operation. This was a large task for any hospital—particularly a small facility. Given all this, the McLaren Port Huron team recognized that its MDI vendor needed to provide knowledgeable, committed technicians and strong customer support to become a true partner in managing the project.

## SOLUTION

Capsule's Medical Device Information System™ (MDIS) provided the advanced technology, versatility and commitment that enabled the hospital to meet all its goals. Solving a major technology issue, Capsule was configured to seamlessly send data to the Meditech system as required through a seamless patient-device association. After patient registration and bed assignment, Capsule matches device data with the appropriate patient and transmits it to the patient record. Since installation, the Capsule system has supported enhanced ICU clinical efficiency, data timeliness and availability, clinician focus on patient care and staff satisfaction. It enabled seamless device integration using 13 fixed bedside Capsule Neuron™ 2 clinical computers, supporting GE/Marquette Solar 8000 critical care monitors and Nellcore Puritan Bennett 840 mobile ventilators. With a technology-forward perspective, the largest device driver library in the industry and unrivaled flexibility, Capsule will support McLaren Port Huron's device integration objectives into the future.

During the implementation, nurses never had to pick up a pen to record bedside data. The entire project was accomplished in the planned timeframe and demonstrated how a small team can efficiently complete the set-up process with a committed technology partner. Building on the success of the installation, McLaren Port Huron plans to integrate balloon pumps and other devices in the ICU and open the Capsule MDIS to other areas of the hospital.

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