



UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES

Capsule's MDIS™ Helps Med-Surg do More with Less

“ Capsule’s automated device data transmission to the EMR significantly enhanced our nurses’ efficiency at the bedside. As a result, without any increased staffing costs, we now deliver a higher level of care to more patients in less time. ”

– Amy Hester, PhD, RN, BC
Director of Nursing Research and Innovation for UAMS

Coinciding with its upgrade to an enterprise Epic electronic medical record (EMR) system, the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Medical Center (UAMS) wanted to enhance and expand its existing medical device information system (MDIS). With high acuity care areas a priority and a limited budget, hospital administration hesitated about extending the new system into its sizeable medical-surgical area. Ultimately, UAMS achieved exceptional value by leveraging Capsule’s technology to eliminate its time-consuming manual device transcription and a wide range of other difficulties in these busy units.

The state’s only academic medical and Level I Trauma Center, UAMS is a busy 516-bed facility providing a full range of specialized medical services. Med-surg is by far the largest care area, comprising almost 300 beds in eight central hospital units.

Capsule MDIS is a product of Qualcomm Life, Inc.

CHALLENGE

UAMS' med-surg units were facing an escalating challenge—to deliver a higher level of care without increasing staff hours and resources. In particular, the units were taking on a growing number of higher acuity cases that required more frequent device data recording and demanding care protocols. Compressed length of patient stays squeezed nurses' time and attention. Following suit, compliance and care documentation requirements also occupied more hours. Compounding the problem, the hospital faced a workforce shortage in part due to the attrition of older staff, boosting clinician workload. And hours simply evaporated as staff traversed the large, spread-out wards.

UAMS believed device integration could successfully address these issues, while enabling enhanced time-liness and availability of patient information across providers to support a higher standard of care. However, its restricted budget meant minimizing the costs of replacing legacy devices and purchasing new computer hardware, creating yet another challenge.

SOLUTION

Today, 65 Capsule Neuron™ 2 mobile clinical computers running the Capsule Chart Xpress™ application provide an advanced point-of-care connectivity platform, seamlessly transmitting patient physiological data and context such as patient location over the hospital network to the Epic EMR. Reducing charting from hours to seconds, the system enables nurses to devote more time to higher acuity patients and spend more time on patient care overall. At the same time, Capsule has improved the timeliness and accuracy of EHR information and availability hospital wide. Customized automated Capsule documentation also provides efficient reporting of safety checks and compliance with treatment protocols.

In addition, Chart Xpress' powerful computing platform and efficient form factor deliver a flexible and cost-effective hardware solution that frees up the existing med-surg PCs for integration with the EMR, minimizing Epic implementation costs. Capsule's vast library of drivers supports all existing UAMS medical devices—no replacements necessary. The system's user-friendly interface appeals to longtime staff unfamiliar with computers, while advanced functionally attracts new, technology-savvy clinicians. And, perhaps most important, staff perceives the system as effective, efficient and safe, making it a win-win all around.

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