Centricity™ Perinatal Connect at Rockford Health System

Increased communication and enhanced patient care throughout the perinatal process.

Challenge

Labor & Delivery is a high-risk unit in any hospital, so managing risk there is critical. Increased communication throughout the perinatal process is essential to help enable optimal care for all patients. Connecting a Labor & Delivery department’s perinatal information system with a hospital’s EMR is key to achieving that goal.

At the Rockford Health System, Labor & Delivery Staff Nurse Angie Asche, RN, BSN, spearheaded the task of interfacing her department’s perinatal information system with the facility’s Epic EMR. “We already had the GE Healthcare Centricity Perinatal system in place, and GE Healthcare had a solution for bringing the OB world into the EMR world,” she says. “We knew that the Centricity Perinatal—Connect module was our answer to make both systems work together for our department.”

Solution

“Centricity Perinatal—Connect module was exactly what we needed to complement our EMR,” Asche notes. “Our nurses didn’t want to lose their ability to document on the fetal strip. That was the biggest thing. Connect module allows us to document right on the fetal strip, so we don’t need dual monitors—we can navigate easily between the EMR and Connect module.”

Clear visibility to heart rate

A potential indicator of fetal compromise, changes in the fetal heart rate patterns like a sinusoidal fetal heart rate can only be seen, not heard. So it’s important for nurses to be able to view the fetal strip. “By having Connect module sitting on top of Epic on the same screen, you can view your fetal strip as well as do your documentation,” Asche notes.

Simple documentation and interfacing

To simplify documentation, Asche and her manager scaled down the fetal strip annotation. “We went through the 147 flowsheet rows and discussed what we needed and what we didn’t need. We narrowed it down to 57 items that we felt were the most important for our patient story on the fetal strip.”

The interface with the Epic EMR was very simple and smooth. Everything was mapped one-to-one through testing, so it was a very simple task to complete.

g Heathca.re.com
Quick, easy training
The nurses took to the new system very readily, with minimal training. “It wasn’t difficult at all—it was really very intuitive,” Asche notes. “Our nurses had already documented on Centricity Perinatal, so with Centricity Perinatal—Connect module it was just a different look to the fetal strip.”

“Centricity Perinatal—Connect module had a few new features, but the nurses felt learning was very easy. GE Healthcare provided an hour of training via webinar. For those nurses who couldn’t make the webinar, I did a presentation at our staff meeting. So everyone got educated on the new system very, very quickly.”

Comprehensive support
From planning through integration and implementation to follow-up support, Asche has found the GE Healthcare team to be very supportive. “The project went smoothly, and if there were any bumps in the road, GE Healthcare was extremely helpful and always answered every question I had,” she says.

Since Rockford went live with Centricity Perinatal—Connect module in November of 2013, that high level of support has continued. “Tech support has been awesome,” Asche says. “They are extremely educated in clinical support. And like me, they all use the system, so that’s always important to a nurse.”

Outcomes
“Centricity Perinatal—Connect module has been a great success for us,” Asche states. “Even our physicians have been using it, especially our more tech-savvy ones. That’s huge, and definitely an added bonus, because they didn’t use Centricity Perinatal before.”

“That’s saving time for our nurses, since they don’t have to do this for the physicians,” Asche adds. “Our doctors just go in and take a look themselves.”

Single sign-on (SSO) to both systems is done through the Epic EMR. “This is a huge advantage,” Asche notes. “The one-tap, two-system sign-on has been a great timesaver for our nurses. They don’t have to log into two systems. They can just log into one, and boom, they’re both up.”

According to Asche, even patient care has benefited from the single sign-on, since the nurse can continue to talk with the patient while bringing up the computer. “You just tap and keep talking,” she says. “You don’t have to stop to enter your user name and password. It’s such a nice, easy transition, and there’s really no pause in assessment.”

“I think the biggest long-term benefit of Centricity Perinatal Connect module is going to be the ability to see the sinusoidal rhythm,” Asche says, “so we can provide optimal patient care—which supports Rockford Health System’s stated mission of ‘Superior Care. Every Day. For All Our Patients.’

Centricity Perinatal Connect module is a great way to complement your EMR,” Asche concludes. “It’s very simple and easy to implement, and training is also very simple and easy to understand. It definitely complements our excellence.”

Partnering for improvement
“Centricity Perinatal—Connect module is a great way to complement your EMR. It’s very simple and easy to implement, and training is also very simple and easy to understand. It definitely complements our excellence. The Centricity Perinatal—Connect module has been a great success for us.”

Angie Asche
Labor & Delivery Staff Nurse
Rockford Health System
About Rockford Health System
The most comprehensive health system in northern Illinois' Rock River Valley, the Rockford Health System has served the region since 1883. The Perinatal Center at Rockford Health System offers services that are unmatched in the area, delivering the highest level of care for both mothers and the 1,200 babies that are delivered in the system each year.

The system’s flagship facility, Rockford Memorial Hospital, is home to the highest-rated Level III neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), providing care for premature, critically ill, and injured newborns throughout the region. The 46-bed NICU is staffed by a multidisciplinary care team of physicians, registered nurses, respiratory therapists, neonatal nurse practitioners, pediatric therapy services, and consulting physicians.

About GE Healthcare
GE Healthcare provides transformational medical technologies and services to meet the demand for increased access, enhanced quality and more affordable healthcare around the world. GE works on things that matter – great people and technologies taking on tough challenges. From medical imaging, software & IT, patient monitoring and diagnostics to drug discovery, biopharmaceutical manufacturing technologies and performance improvement solutions, GE Healthcare helps medical professionals deliver great healthcare to their patients.