Centricity™ Perinatal Connect Module at Phelps County Regional Medical Center

Helps with information sharing, improved communication, efficient documentation, and enhanced patient care all along the perinatal continuum.

Challenge
The Phelps County Labor & Delivery staff had been using the GE Healthcare Centricity Perinatal system since 2005 for documentation. “So before we added Centricity Perinatal Connect Module, we had already established an outbound interface from Centricity Perinatal to our Meditech EHR,” says Pamela Feeler, Phelps County Director of Clinical Informatics.

“But it wasn’t a discrete interface,” she adds. “It was largely a report-type interface, with less-than-ideal formatting. The lack of discrete interfacing with our Meditech EHR made it difficult to electronically report the labor and delivery documentation.”

“Another problem was that it interfaced at discharge, so we were challenged by the lack of connectivity between our Labor & Delivery documentation and our Meditech EHR system. Our pediatricians could not see the mother’s labor documentation in the Meditech EHR while the baby was in the hospital.” Feeler notes. “Finally, there were paper processes in place that were inefficient and cumbersome.”

Solution
To address these challenges, Phelps County Regional Medical Center decided to add Centricity Perinatal Connect module to its existing system.

Individually assigned specialists
“We have had really good experiences with GE Healthcare in past upgrades and implementations,” Feeler says. “And when we decided to implement Centricity Perinatal—Connect module, GE assigned individual, experienced implementation specialists to each specific part of the project.”

“For instance, we had an interface engineer, a clinical specialist and a project manager. Each person had an important role to play,” she notes. “We actually began the implementation in January and went live in April, so it was key that we had experienced people on the implementation team.”

A custom-tailored approach
Although a standard HL7 interface was used for the connectivity, Feeler and her staff had a specific vision for the way they wanted to see the data in the Meditech EHR. Here, the experience and expertise of the GE Healthcare interface engineer was critical to success.
Instead of sending over the entire chart and fetal monitor strip documentation from Centricity Perinatal, we decided to parse it out, so that we could view it the way we are used to viewing data in the Meditech EHR,” Feeler explains. “Rather than doing a bulk transfer, it was interfaced in meaningful pieces. We developed specific flow sheets in Meditech to help users find and view data easily.”

**User-developed documentation**

Since Centricity Perinatal—Connect module was very similar to the fetal strip documentation that the Phelps County nurses were using in Centricity Perinatal, they were already quite proficient with it. A team of nursing shift managers from the unit, along with the GE Healthcare System manager, met weekly to build the Centricity Perinatal—Connect module user documentation with a focus on workflow.

“It is imperative that the nurses who are at the bedside using the system develop and optimize the build and workflow” Feeler stresses. “This also helped support the go-live and beyond, since they were very familiar with the system and workflow.”

**Discrete, near real-time interfacing**

“One of the most valuable things for us has been the connectivity, because now all of our fetal monitor strip documentations interface to the Meditech EHR discretely and in near real time,” Feeler says. “That means those who need to view the patient’s record—pediatricians, consulting physicians, other providers—can do so, and document it in as well.”

Before Centricity Perinatal—Connect module, Labor & Delivery summaries had to be printed out for providers to sign, and then scanned back into the medical record. “That process is gone, because now our interfaced information just flows over to the provider’s document in Meditech for him or her to electronically sign,” Feeler notes. “The elimination of these paper processes have been huge, not only for our physicians, but also for medical records.”

**Direct information access for better communication**

Pediatricians now have direct access to the mother’s information, which has improved communication tremendously. “Now they can look at the mom’s record and get the details they need and answers to the questions that they have,” Feeler notes. “They aren’t dependent on finding a labor nurse to help look through the record in Centricity Perinatal to see, for example, what the mom’s vital signs were during labor because the baby is now having symptoms. Clinically that is huge, because it allows the pediatricians to have more information to treat the baby.”

**Outcomes**

“I think one of the major long-term benefits of Centricity Perinatal Connect module for Phelps County Regional Medical Center will be that near real-time patient data will be available to those who need it,” Feeler says. “That translates into enhanced communication and treatment.”

“We have also eliminated many paper processes related to the way we were using the system before,” she adds. “The ability to electronically report from our certified EHR will be important for quality measures and meaningful use in the near future. We’ll be in a position to share all of our information, whatever is needed, so that’s a really nice place to be.”

“Adding Centricity Perinatal—Connect module to our Centricity Perinatal system has really put us in an optimal position to take care of our patients, to be able to document efficiently, and to share information,” Feeler concludes. “We’ve been very satisfied with the experience that we had in implementation, with a team that supported and guided us through it, because that was key to the success that we’ve had.”

Partnering for improvement

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Pamela Feeler
Director of Clinical Informatics
Phelps County Regional Medical Center
About Phelps Country Regional Medical Center
A 242-bed licensed facility located in Rolla in central Missouri, the Phelps County Regional Medical Center handles approximately 900 deliveries annually, and is home to a Level II nursery staffed and equipped to provide expert care for infants needing extra help or special treatment.

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.

Imagination at work

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