CASE STUDY

Automated inventory management helps improve efficiency and reduce costs

Pyxis Pharmogistics® inventory management software streamlines workflow, provides near real-time access to medication stock levels and helps maintain a perpetual inventory system.

Utilizing primarily manual processes, Ochsner Medical Center - Jefferson Highway faced increasing complexity surrounding its medication procurement, picking and tracking processes. In turn, Ochsner opted to integrate its health information technology (HIT) systems with Pyxis Pharmogistics inventory management software and Pyxis® ES system solutions to improve workflow efficiency, contain costs and increase medication safety.

“Before implementing Pyxis Pharmogistics software, we didn’t efficiently utilize automation in the pharmacy for managing medications,” says Dale Boudreaux, Assistant Director of Pharmacy at Ochsner Medical Center - Jefferson Highway. “It was a very manual process to look at every medication on the shelves and determine which ones needed to be reordered. We also had a lot of bulk medications taking up limited space on shelves that would be better managed in carousels—making the pick and verification process much more efficient.”

Accurately order, manage and track medications

Pyxis Pharmogistics software integrates with Ochsner’s medication wholesaler, Pharmacy Information System (PIS) and Pyxis MedStation® ES systems to help accurately order, manage and track medications from procurement to distribution in near real-time. The software manages inventory in all locations including carousels, static shelves, refrigerators and automated dispensing cabinets while providing an automated workflow queue based on hospital priorities. The software automatically receives daily replenishment requests to accelerate inventory turns, maintain stock at optimal levels and reduce waste from overstocked or expired drugs and, in conjunction with barcoding technology, enables pharmacy and nursing to improve medication accuracy.

“It probably saves us a couple of hours a day to generate orders for our wholesaler. For picking, it also has saved us two to three hours per day.”

Dale Boudreaux
Assistant Director of Pharmacy
Ochsner Medical Center - Jefferson Highway
Optimize medication data reporting

Supported by the CareFusion SmartWorks platform, Pyxis Pharmogistics software provides visibility into key areas to help further streamline inventory management, understand distributor replenishment cycles, replacement costs and product reconciliation, and manage expired and recalled medications. The data can then be leveraged through an at-a-glance dashboard or from the predefined reports. “With inventory management reporting, we are better able to know what is on the shelf and its utilization. From that, we know the quantity that we need and can make necessary adjustments,” says Boudreaux.

Ochsner has improved efficiency and accuracy in these medication management processes:

- Reduction in time spent on procurement
- Reduction in time spent on the pick process
- Added level of safety for the fill process
- Improvement from 9.5 to 14 inventory turns
- Reduction in last annual inventory by 17 percent
- Reduction in waste by approximately 40 percent*

“We are a decentralized pharmacy distribution system. The software helps pharmacists reduce time spent in the medication and distribution process, so they can be redeployed on the floors to consult with nurses and patients.”

Dale Boudreaux  
Assistant Director of Pharmacy  
Ochsner Medical Center - Jefferson Highway

About Ochsner

Ochsner Health System is Louisiana’s largest non-profit, academic, healthcare system. Driven by a mission to serve, heal, lead, educate and innovate, coordinated clinical and hospital patient care is provided across the region by Ochsner’s 13 owned, managed and affiliated hospitals and more than 50 health centers. Ochsner is the only Louisiana hospital recognized by U.S. News & World Report as a “Best Hospital” across nine specialty categories caring for patients from all 50 states and more than 90 countries worldwide. Each year, Ochsner employs more than 15,000 employees, nearly 1,000 physicians in over 90 medical specialties and sub-specialties and conducts over 750 clinical research studies.

Note

* Includes IV waste.

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

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