Alaris® Viewer Suite for Infusion Viewer

Gundersen Lutheran® Medical Center

Gundersen Lutheran is a physician-led, nonprofit healthcare system throughout western Wisconsin, northeastern Iowa and southeastern Minnesota that cares for patients in 19 counties. This comprehensive healthcare network includes one of the nation’s largest multi-specialty group medical practices, regional community clinics, hospital, home care and behavioral health services, vision centers, pharmacies, and air and ground ambulances. The network is supported by more than 5,500 staff members, including more than 700 medical, dental and associate healthcare professionals.

Gundersen Lutheran has been named among the Thomson Reuter 100 Top Hospitals® more than a dozen times, and received HealthGrades® 2012 Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence. This distinction places Gundersen Lutheran among the top 5% of hospitals in the nation for clinical quality care for the fifth consecutive year. Gundersen Lutheran is also designated as the Western Clinical Campus for the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine. These credentials made it the perfect choice as a beta site for the new software product offering from CareFusion.

In March 2012, Gundersen Lutheran became the first limited commercial release site for CareFusion to install Alaris® Viewer Suite for Infusion Viewer software. Infusion Viewer is the first near real-time software application offered to work with the Alaris System and display infusion status data from infusions administered throughout the hospital or health system, including all Guardrails® software soft limit violations, via Alaris Pump and Syringe modules. Infusion Viewer was installed at their teaching hospital and championed by their Manager of Pharmacy Information Systems and Finance, Denise Kachel. Capturing patient ID data is an integral component in the success of Infusion Viewer, and Gundersen Lutheran manually input patient ID data into the PC unit, making the two a perfect fit. Although Gundersen Lutheran manually enters patient ID data, they utilize the Auto-ID module to scan barcode medication and will add patient ID data scanning to their practice this summer.

Gundersen Lutheran implemented the software with a clinical focus, and since the installation, they have been able to garner significant value around patient safety and pump usage. On Infusion Viewer, Denise Kachel said:

“With the introduction of Infusion Viewer, we have been able to validate that our compliance with entering patient ID data is 98%. Another benefit that we have been able to realize, in regards to viewing the infusion status in real time, is the potential to capture medication errors while the infusion is still running. Infusion Viewer has allowed us to catch two additional medication errors, resulting from infusions running outside of the Guardrails software soft limits, within a two-week time period. Neither error would have resulted in serious patient care issues, but it was good to know that we were able to correct them quicker.

Additionally, pharmacy has been able to partner with the nurse educator through using Infusion Viewer. The nurse educator has been reviewing the dashboard one to two times a day and researching these infusions running in basic mode, outside of the Guardrails software limits or without a patient ID. In doing so, the nurse educator has been able to teach nurses directly at the pump, while the drug is infusing. In one week, she educated three to four nurses at the bedside to help them better understand the pump. The nurse educator has also been using these examples in quarterly presentations to all nurses as part of providing ongoing continuing education.”