



Bergan Mercy reaps the benefits of automation technology with the Pyxis[®] Anesthesia System

Pyxis[®] Perioperative Solutions case report



Bergan Mercy Medical Center

Omaha, Nebraska

Size: 400-bed facility

Type: Full-service healthcare provider

Supports: 35 primary care physician offices,
100 outpatient service centers

Member: Alegen Health

Total ORs: 16 inpatient, 3 outpatient



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Angela Ward
Operations Leader, Pharmacy Services

Customized automation for Anesthesia Providers

Bergan Mercy Medical Center is a full-service healthcare provider known as a leader in maternity services, orthopedics, cardiovascular services, oncology, surgical services, emergency room care, hospice house and senior health services. Bergan Mercy Medical Center installed the CareFusion Pyxis Anesthesia System in May 2000. Today the facility has 17 units installed throughout the inpatient OR and outpatient surgery areas, with one backup system in the main Pharmacy. The decision to install the Pyxis Anesthesia System was made between Pharmacy, the Anesthesia departments and administration.

When Bergan Mercy Medical Center began the process to install the Pyxis Anesthesia System, they had several goals: 1) reduce lost charges, 2) implement a user-friendly system for Anesthesia Providers, 3) improve control over medications being handled by Anesthesia Providers in the OR, 4) develop a clear overview of medications being administered by Anesthesia Providers and 5) enhance patient safety.

Not only did CareFusion meet these goals, but the Pyxis Anesthesia Systems were installed quickly, with minimal impact to the busy schedule maintained in the Bergan Mercy OR.

Enhance charge capture

With the Pyxis Anesthesia System in place, Bergan Mercy has greatly improved charge capture. “Previously, we charged patients via a charge sheet filled out by the Physician and then manually charged by the Pharmacy. By reviewing what medications were ordered versus what medications were charged for, we were able to determine that approximately \$8,000 of drug costs per month were not being charged for. At this point, the final decision was made to obtain the Pyxis Anesthesia System. Now, we monitor the system monthly and provide the Chief of Anesthesia with missing drug costs and a charting audit,” stated Angela Ward, Operations Leader, Pharmacy Services.

“Based on the successful installation and training with the Pyxis Anesthesia System, the Bergan Mercy team is reaping the benefits of automation technology—both in the Pharmacy and in the OR. And those benefits will continue.”

Angela Ward
Operations Leader, Pharmacy Services

An easy-to-use system

Anesthesia professionals benefit most from the ease of charging provided by the Pyxis Anesthesia System, with removal and charge combined in the same step. These busy caregivers are also pleased that they are no longer required to maintain narcotic boxes with the Pyxis Anesthesia System in place.

Improving accuracy

“The number one reason a decision-maker in another hospital should install the Pyxis Anesthesia System—accountability and tracking of medications. The increase in charge capture more than pays for the cost of the system,” said Ward. The Pyxis Anesthesia System has allowed Bergan Mercy to track medication utilization and charting throughout the OR. “We still inventory the machines at least once per week to ensure accuracy,” noted Ward. “The system has also allowed us to streamline our auditing process, which can be done at our convenience. We review the report produced by the Pyxis Anesthesia System versus the anesthesia flow sheet. This gives us a good idea of what is and isn’t being charted.”

Training—the foundation of success

“We trained all of the Anesthesia Providers one-on-one in the Pharmacy on a demo system—this training took about 45 minutes,” said Ward. “We feel strongly that this was one of the keys to our success. With the right training, our first cases using the Pyxis Anesthesia System ran smoothly. Each Pharmacy team member also trained for 45 minutes. We trained them on the refilling aspects but also on how to use the machines as an Anesthesia Provider so that they could field questions.”

“Based on the successful installation and training with the Pyxis Anesthesia System, the Bergan Mercy team is reaping the benefits of automation technology—both in the Pharmacy and in the OR. And those benefits will continue,” stated Ward. “CareFusion is a company that I trust and I know will support their products. They have sound technology.”





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