CASE STUDY

Automation helps improve medication safety and processes

Pyxis Pharmogistics® inventory management software helps CHRISTUS Spohn Health System improve pharmacy workflow efficiency and standardization across their health system.

CHRISTUS Spohn Health System, based in Corpus Christi, Texas, is the region’s largest charity care provider and nonprofit healthcare system. With 1,000 beds, the system consists of six hospital campuses: CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital Corpus Christi (Shoreline, Memorial and South), CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital Alice, CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital Beeville and CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital Kleberg (Kingsville).

As a result of increased national media attention about medication errors within the healthcare industry, CHRISTUS Spohn evaluated its medication management processes and developed an action plan to further increase medication safety and standardization across their healthcare system. To achieve this goal, CHRISTUS Spohn centralized distribution for all six facilities through Med Safety Central (MSC)—a central location that dispenses 80% of the medications administered within their healthcare system.

CHRISTUS Spohn’s plan included implementing the Alaris® System smart infusion technology, Pyxis Pharmogistics® inventory management software and Pyxis PharmoPack® medication packaging technology, along with additional pharmacy technologies. Supporting barcode medication verification (BMV) and computerized patient order management, these new technologies have helped CHRISTUS Spohn reduce the risk of medication errors, improve inventory management and redeploy pharmacists to clinical functions.

“Pyxis Pharmogistics software was a great help in setting up MSC. It plays a big part in helping us to manage inventory more effectively and streamline our processes.”

Donna Suver
Senior Technician and Supervisor
CHRISTUS Spohn Health System
CHRISTUS Spohn has improved efficiency and accuracy in these medication management processes:

- 62.5% reduction in time spent on the pick process
- Added level of safety for the fill process
- 20 inventory turns per year
- Elimination of pharmacists from cart fill double-checks
- Reduction in expired medications and waste

In addition, by improving efficiency through automation and implementing process changes, CHRISTUS Spohn has seen these improvements:

- Pharmacist redeployment to clinical rounds
- Pharmacist availability for discharge and electrolyte counseling
- A drop in readmission rates from 24% to 13%
- Successful BMV implementation with 95% compliance rate

CHRISTUS Spohn is just one example of how the CareFusion medication management solution, supported by the CareFusion SmartWorks platform, helps standardize and simplify systems and data across healthcare systems to achieve financial and productivity improvements.

“Having a pharmacist where they need to be is making a financial and medication safety impact.”

Joe High
Regional Director of Pharmacy
CHRISTUS Spohn Health System

Note
CHRISTUS Spohn results reflect the hospital system’s medication management process in combination with Alaris and Pyxis technologies.