



## CASE STUDY

# Automation helps improve medication accountability and reduce waste—without adding IT support resources

**Children's Home of Pittsburgh & Lemieux Family Center implements the Pyxis® ES system to help control medication distribution and improve documentation processes.**

Children's Home of Pittsburgh turned to CareFusion for a best practice solution that could improve medication management and integrate seamlessly into current workflows. "We started to implement an electronic medical record (EMR), and in the process we came to the realization that we needed to streamline our current process for administering and documenting medications," says Joshua Amrhein, Operations Manager. The automated Pyxis® ES system solution aligned well with helping them accomplish their goals.

## A seamless implementation

With remote support and diagnostic capabilities, the Pyxis ES system allowed Children's Home of Pittsburgh to implement improved processes without investing heavily in internal IT support staff. "We are a small organization

with limited resources, so having a self-contained enterprise-wide solution was important to us," says Amrhein. "We looked at multiple platforms and—let's put it this way—we didn't have to put a lot of man hours into implementing the Pyxis ES system. And since the install, we have not had a lot of significant downtime."

## A solid sense of accountability

With the Pyxis ES system in place, Children's Home of Pittsburgh was able to enhance control of medications, specifically narcotics. "One of the easy things for us to see initially was improved accountability. The reports allow staff to see if there was an unwitnessed waste, or a waste that was even missed. When we come in every morning, we now have reports printed for us that allow us to monitor these things," says Amrhein. "We were previously a 100% paper-based facility so, from a documentation perspective, there was going to be a margin of human error given the large number of medications on-site. With this automated solution, the possibility for error is tremendously lower."



## Improving charge capture and nursing workflow

Automation has also enabled a more seamless workflow. “The way our process works now is that orders are first put into our EMR, and they flow over into the Pyxis MedStation® ES system,” says Amrhein. “All medications show up on the patient’s profile, and the nurses pull the right medication out of the dispensing cabinet. Once the medication is administered, it’s automatically charged right back into the EMR,” Amrhein continues. “It’s a lot cleaner of a process for nurses. They log into the Pyxis MedStation ES system, select the medication and know what the par and refill levels are—so it’s not the guessing game of finding the medication.”

***“In today’s healthcare arena, with decreasing reimbursement rates, the Pyxis MedStation ES system is a medication management solution that we are able to financially sustain within our organization.”***

Joshua Amrhein, MHA, MHRM, PMP-C  
Operations Manager  
Children’s Home of Pittsburgh & Lemieux Family Center  
Pediatric Specialty Hospital & Child’s Way

## Streamlining pharmacy communication

Implementing the Pyxis ES system improved communication between Children’s Home of Pittsburgh and its contracted pharmacy. “Our pharmacy is a contracted service that is offsite. They never knew the exact medications our patients were on, because we were ordering stock medications which were delivered twice a day,” says Amrhein. “If a patient was discharged and we didn’t have reason to believe they were returning, those medications were wasted.” The implementation of the Pyxis Enterprise Server now allows pharmacists to access the Pyxis ES system remotely. “With this implementation, at any point the pharmacy can log in, see the par levels and know when they need to send something based on a patient’s orders. The number of trips they are making to the facility is decreasing, along with the number of medications we are wasting—resulting in a cost savings.”

## About Children’s Home of Pittsburgh

Established in 1893, Children’s Home of Pittsburgh is an independent non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote the health and well-being of infants and children through services which establish and strengthen the family. Children’s Home of Pittsburgh’s Pediatric Specialty Hospital was founded in 1984 as a 28-bed acute care hospital, licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and serves children from birth to age 21.

### Note

\* Children’s Home of Pittsburgh results reflect the hospital’s medication management process in combination with Pyxis technologies.

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