



# Quinte Health Care Chooses Data Express to Exchange Data with Physicians' EHRs

Quinte Health Care (QHC), a single hospital corporation with four interdependent sites serving the communities in the Quinte West and Hastings counties in Ontario, Canada, chose to participate in a Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and South East Local Health Integration Network initiative to implement the exchange of electronic medical data with physicians' electronic health records (EHRs). Based on QHC's specific need for a cost-effective and rapid deployment to interface with their MEDITECH Health Care Information System (HCIS), they chose Data Express. Jointly developed by Forward Advantage and MEDITECH, Data Express is designed specifically for the efficient exchange of MEDITECH information with physicians' EHRs.

Data Express enabled QHC to successfully send data to the Prince Edward Family Health Team, a primary care health team serving Prince Edward County. "We had a very tight timeline which was geared to the funding," said J.R. Dick, director of I.T. for QHC, "With the right staff and the right set of tools - MEDITECH and Forward Advantage - we got the job done." With Forward Advantage's team of experts coordinating with QHC's project leader, they were able to save on internal resources, - and avoid pulling other staff members from projects and possibly adding staff.

Ron Baugh, I.T. Interface Specialist was the project lead working with MEDITECH and Forward Advantage representing the hospital and the Family Health Team. Baugh said, "It was a great opportunity to work the project from start to finish dealing with a diverse group of participants. It was especially rewarding to be able to work in the FHT area while logged onto our hospital system and watch the results data flow into their system."

**"...I'm happy to report the response from both providers and their staff has been overwhelmingly positive. We are all realizing a wide range of benefits from this project."** Prince Edward Health physician Greg Higgins

QHC is now successfully sending data to physician's EHRs, eliminating time-consuming phone calls, faxes and printed results. Prince Edward Health physician Greg Higgins said, "I would estimate the amount of paper coming into my office has been reduced by about 60 per cent. This has significantly reduced the workload on my staff who previously had to scan all this paper into the system and insert it into the correct location within the patient's chart, then shred the paper reports. We are now receiving reports from MEDITECH in near real time which are automatically inserted into the correct location within the patient's chart."

“Previously, if I ordered a test on another provider’s patient (in the Emergency Department for example) which required follow-up, I would have to call the provider to ensure they were looking after it. Now I can glance at the chart and see that the provider is looking after it. Any follow-up on received reports is appended to the document and can easily be reviewed by any team member.”

In addition to the Data Express rapid deployment model, facilities also experience the benefit of cost and resource savings. The “one-to-many” design reduces the cost of interfaces, and once an interface has been created for a particular EHR, it can be used to connect to any other physician practices using that EHR at no additional charge to the facility. Forward Advantage has established relationships with market-leading EHR vendors, and is working with them to further streamline deployment and costs for physicians’ ambulatory EMR connectivity.

Data Express is a solution that was created by Forward Advantage and MEDITECH – it’s easy to see the benefit this commitment brings. “When MEDITECH customers evaluate our solution, and recognize our experience and relationship with MEDITECH, as well as our relationships with EHR vendors, they see the benefit of choosing Data Express and our streamlined and proven approach,” says Darla Rigg, vice president of marketing and product management for Forward Advantage.

#### **About Quinte Health Care**

Quinte Health Care (QHC) is a regional hospital with four sites in Belleville, Trenton, Picton and Bancroft, Ontario. It employs over 1,600 staff and over 280 doctors have privileges. QHC serves more than 160,000 residents living in an area of 7,000 square kilometers, including Prince Edward and Hastings Counties and a portion of Northumberland County. For more information, visit their Web site at: <http://www.qhc.on.ca/>.

#### **About Forward Advantage, Inc.**

Based in Fresno, CA, Forward Advantage provides interoperability, information distribution, identity and access management, and medical device integration solutions to over 1,000 hospital customers throughout North America.

