



Skiff Medical Center Achieves Interoperability with Forward Advantage

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Dianna Machin
Senior IT Analyst,
Skiff Medical Center

Interoperability is not just the latest buzzword in the healthcare IT industry-- it is also reality for Skiff Medical Center and their physicians implementing EMRs. Skiff, a 68-bed primary care hospital, serving 116,000 people in Jasper County, Iowa was looking to meet the needs of their physicians implementing EMRs and requesting the electronic exchange of clinical information with the hospital. As a part of Skiff's interoperability strategy, they realized implementing a data exchange solution between the hospital and physicians would not only meet the needs of more and more physicians as they begin to implement EMRs, but it would also streamline the workflow for staff, save on resources, and better meet privacy requirements for the hospital. And by laying the foundation for interoperability with physicians, Skiff is taking steps to comply with the government's latest regulations and reimbursement requirements, including the meaningful use specifications now being defined for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Satisfy Physicians with a Dependable Solution

A long-standing MEDITECH HCIS customer, Skiff Medical Center also utilizes Communication Director from Forward Advantage, the leading report information distribution system integrated with MEDITECH applications. Building on the physician satisfaction they had experienced with Communication Director and Forward Advantage's relationship with MEDITECH, they turned to Forward Advantage for their data exchange solution. "Our experience with Forward Advantage has proven their solutions to be dependable," said Dianna Machin, senior IT analyst for Skiff, "and we knew that's what we needed when providing our physicians with electronic information--a solution that meets their needs, and one that we could count on to get the job done." Skiff chose Forward Advantage's Data Express after determining a traditional interface engine was not going to meet their need for a seamless solution that worked behind the scenes and delivered data directly to the physicians' EMRs. Data Express, jointly developed with MEDITECH, provides streamlined, cost-effective electronic information exchange between MEDITECH facilities and physician practices to better meet the needs of MEDITECH hospitals and the growing number of physicians implementing EMRs.



Products At A Glance

Click on the product names to learn more:

- [Communication Director](#)
- [Data Express](#)

Valuable Design and Experience

Data Express uses a “one-to-many” model with an integrated data transformation process that significantly reduces the time, effort, and cost of deploying, maintaining, and supporting the solution. Data Express was also designed with standardized and tailored output formats, allowing the hospital to send messages in an HL7 format specific to their MEDITECH HCIS, and disseminate the information in a format that meets the physician’s EMR requirements. Data Express also includes built-in routing capabilities, which provide the ability to quickly add HL7 delivery to physicians using the same EMR output format. And because Forward Advantage has worked with many leading EMR vendors, their Client Services team brings valuable experience to an otherwise daunting process.

“We didn’t have access to the EMR system, so it was clearly advantageous to have the Forward Advantage team implement Data Express and facilitate the communication necessary with the EMR,” said Machin, “their active participation allowed the required testing to be a much smoother and faster process than it could have been. We were up and running within two months.”

Exceeds Physicians Expectations

Skiff Medical Center has realized their information exchange goals. Physicians are now receiving the electronic data they requested, and Skiff is benefitting from streamlined workflow, a reduction in paper, and the peace of mind of knowing clinical information is being sent securely to their physicians’ EMRs. Another benefit of sending the data electronically that was quickly realized by staff was the ability to have the physicians electronically sign forms, significantly reducing wait time. “It’s a lot less work for the clinician, and it in turn reduces our wait time, and also streamlines the hospital’s process because we no longer have to scan documents for signatures,” says Machin. “We are excited about our role in assisting Skiff Medical Center meet their interoperability goals,” says Darla Rigg, vice president of product management for Forward Advantage, “Interoperability is a key element in providing improved patient care. With Data Express, Forward Advantage is having a positive impact on patient care, while also saving the healthcare facility valuable resources, and not only meeting the demand, but exceeding the expectations of their physicians.”



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For more information about Skiff Medical Center’s implementation of Data Express, please contact a Forward Advantage customer representative at 877-636-7927.