USE CASE
Replaces Point to Point Integration with Centralized Interface Management System

SummitHEALTHCARE

Alder Hey
Children's Hospital

Client

Alder Hey Children's Hospital

Liverpool, England

Challenge

When Alder Hey's IT/IS team decided to migrate their electronic health records (EHR) platform to MEDITECH 6.x, they recognized that this presented the opportunity to also update other elements of their paperless patient data strategy.

One of these was the way the hospital managed system integration with the EHR suite. Until this point, Alder Hey had used a point to point approach that required a distinct interface for each feed. This was costly, time-consuming, and prevented them from re-using existing data. From a day to day management standpoint, 18 point to point connections required individual attention. When Alder Hey decided to move away from a point to point interface approach, they chose Summit Healthcare as their integration partner. The hospital had already derived success from using the powerful RPA tool, the Summit Scripting Toolkit, and recognized the potential of further developing the strategic relationship. The Summit interface engine gives hospitals a broad range of integration functionality that makes it simple to transition existing system interfaces and create new connections between the EHR platform and third party software – making it perfect for Alder Hey's project.

Solution

One of the keys to a successful migration was ensuring that all the interfaces went live at the same time as MEDITECH 6.x, so there was no lag time in data exchange. The simplicity of the technology's architecture allowed for local control of each interface transition. This ensured that every interface was aligned to the individual business need of each receiving system and the dependent operational services.

During interface testing, it became apparent that there were some issues with the initial input/throughput and the high volume of messages that the 18 interfaces would be sending into MEDITECH. Summit Healthcare's Outsourcing Services group worked hand-in-hand with Alder Hey's IT team and MEDITECH implementation staff to reconfigure the system and ensure it met the hospital's requirements.

As a result of this well-planned, six-month planning and testing phase, 18 interfaces were up and running at the same time as the hospital went live with MEDITECH 6.x. Alder Hey also successfully integrated MEDITECH's ERP module with nine other system.

Results

As a result of the tight integration between MEDITECH and Alder Hey's third party applications, more than half a million messages were successfully sent during the first 24 hours. Compounding this initial success, operational performance of the Integration Engine has maintained live, up to date communications between all connected systems since the transition.

Now that Alder Hey has moved from a point to point approach to a centralized integration strategy, the hospital's IT team no longer has to manage multiple interfaces individually. Instead, they have a one-stop solution that manages all system feeds into and out of MEDITECH 6.x.

In addition to using Summit Healthcare's integration engine, Alder Hey also relied on the Summit Scripting Toolkit, a powerful MEDITECH workflow automation tool, to support the migration to 6.x with dictionary builds, management, and synchronization. The application continues to automate key processes across the hospital.

> "Summit Healthcare helped ensure that our transition to MEDITECH 6.x was as smooth as possible. It was crucial that our interfaces were up and running when we went live with the new platform, and that's exactly what we achieved. The Summit Interoperability Platform helped us gain control over our complex integration environment. It not only allows us to centrally manage 18 interfaces into MEDITECH 6.x, but also makes it easy to add new integration points as needed."
>
> - **Cathy Fox**, Associate Director of Informatics at Alder Hey Children's Hospital.

Summit Healthcare

About Summit Healthcare

Summit Healthcare is the choice of hospitals who want to take full control of their healthcare system integration, automation and business continuity needs. Since 1999, we have worked to provide the industry with the most flexible integration and automation technology with complimentary tailored services and solutions.