



Category: EHR Interoperability



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Organization

Lorien Health Systems (LHS) is a Maryland-based, privately owned, for-profit health care system encompassing the health care continuum from post-acute services, skilled and long-term care nursing and assisted living to home and community-based services. LHS's commitment to providing seamless care that is transparent and accessible to residents/families, medical providers, health information exchanges and health care institutions is based on an accessible, web-based electronic medical/health record (EMR/EHR).

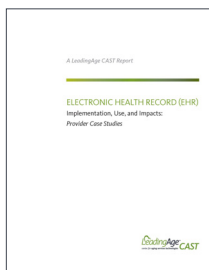
LHS has seven distinct communities throughout Maryland, providing care to over a thousand residents in 600 nursing home beds and 400 assisted living beds.

Services:

- Nursing & Post-Acute care
- Rehabilitation Therapy
- Assisted Living
- Skilled Nursing
- Ventilator Care
- Medically Complex Rehab

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Project Description

LHS needed a fully integrated EMR that incorporated a complete solution for clinical, therapy, medications and supplies but also integration points with third-party providers. It sought a solution that could address the immediate clinical system requirements and interfaces, yet would be flexible for future changes as they come.

Approach

LHS selected BlueStep for its EMR. BlueStep provides a solution that unifies all resident clinical data into a single view that is flexible and responsive to the end-user's needs now and in the future. Additionally, BlueStep's partnership with BridgeGate International enabled LHS to quickly integrate BlueStep's Computerized Physician Order Entry (CPOE) system for pharmacy orders as well as laboratory and radiology results into the BlueStep platform. BridgeGate's rapid integration platform provided the ability to include resident patient data to the Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients (CRISP), Maryland's health information exchange (HIE), and a custom clinical



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assessment platform. Additional interfaces currently being incorporated involve the sharing of therapy minutes and receiving patient discharge information from referring acute care centers. BridgeGate manages real-time resident data bi-directionally, providing BlueStep unparalleled interoperability with all of LHS's partners and solution providers.

Outcomes Achieved

LHS's goal was to have a fully interoperable EMR system that provides accurate data exchange and availability as well as offering operational efficiencies. That goal is being realized.

“No longer will our nurses and medical providers have to log onto three different programs. It will be one login, one point for order entry, results reporting and data input. A true Best-in-Class resident medical record that contains all pertinent clinical data without having to compromise the quality of the record because provider programs are not interoperable,” explains Wayne Brannock, LHS's VP, clinical affairs.

LHS realized the following value from its partnership with BlueStep and BridgeGate:

- Unified view of all resident patient data on one system via BlueStep's platform
- Real-time, two-way access to patient data through BridgeGate's integration platform

- Participation in progressive interoperability such as HIE
- Ability for LHS to adapt easily as company needs change and address changes in the future with the flexibility of BlueStep and BridgeGate
- Seamlessly transition and transform LHS's IT landscape as needs or requirements change
- Vendor agnostic; LHS can quickly switch vendors to reduce costs or provide additional services
- Ability to integrate now; new integrations can happen in weeks, not months.

Lessons Learned/Advice to Share with Others

The biggest lessons LHS learned are:

- It takes a lot longer than you think. LHS has been through a couple of big changes in software so they thought they had a good idea how long this would take, but with so many parties having to be coordinated, it is taking longer than anticipated.
- With so many parts to the puzzle, be sure to define what part of your system will be the “master” and have a strong, organized project manager at that point to coordinate all of the other connections.

LeadingAge Center for Aging Services Technologies:

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