



Case Study



EJGH

Motion Tablet PCs Help Eradicate Hospital-acquired Pressure Ulcers

Overview

Region: Louisiana
Industry: Healthcare

Customer Profile

East Jefferson General Hospital (EJGH) is a 450 bed, not-for-profit community hospital serving the east bank of Jefferson Parish, Louisiana. EJGH provides its patients with the highest quality care through innovation and collaboration with its 3,000 team members and a medical staff of 900 as well as the greater community.

Business Situation

The nurses required photo documentation in a lightweight and mobile device for a pressure ulcer prevention project.

Solution

With its integrated digital and web cameras, EJGH immediately turned to the Motion® C5v Tablet PC. In addition to wound documentation, the nurses can use the devices to access and input patient data. When not in use, the tablets are docked in docking stations and can be used with a mouse, keyboard and monitor as a desktop replacement. According to Torres, clinicians can undock in the middle of documentation and continue inputting information while mobile.

Benefits

- Drastically reduces hospital-acquired pressure ulcers
- Nurses catch pressure ulcers sooner and monitor them closely
- Expedites and enhances treatment
- Saves time and costs
- Streamlines workflows

“From our research, Motion was first to come out with a tablet that’s portable and has the integrated features, such as cameras and barcode scanners, that we needed while still being rugged and easily disinfected. This is huge for any healthcare environment where devices are going to be dropped and require disinfection between patient visits. It’s also powerful enough to run our entire Cerner EHR in a usable format. The device’s digitizer pen helps with clicking the application’s small targets, and we can document without having to change our workflows.”

Jody Torres, RN, director of nursing informatics, East Jefferson General Hospital

East Jefferson General Hospital’s (EJGH) nurses required photo documentation in a lightweight and mobile device for a pressure ulcer prevention project. Previously, the nurses were required to input detailed wound assessments into Cerner electronic power forms via COWs or desktop PCs when patients first arrived at the hospital.

With its integrated digital and web cameras, EJGH immediately turned to the Motion® C5v Tablet PC. In addition to wound documentation, the nurses can use the devices to access and input patient data.

With the Motion Tablet PC-enabled photo documentation process in place, EJGH drastically reduced hospital-acquired pressure ulcers, which has a significant financial impact. Additionally, caring for patients with wounds is more efficient for physicians and enterostomal therapy (ET) nurse specialists, as they can view the image of the wound prior to the initial visit in order to decide on treatment options and bring needed supplies. ET nurses also report that the wound images help them prioritize which patients are most in need when they have long lists of patients to see.



Featured Partner



About Cerner Corporation

Cerner is contributing to the systemic change of health and care delivery. For more than 30 years Cerner has been executing its vision to make health care safer and more efficient. We started with the foundation of digitizing paper processes and now offer the most comprehensive array of information software, professional services, medical device integration, remote hosting and employer health and wellness services. Cerner systems are used by everyone from individual consumers, to single-doctor practices, hospitals, employers and entire countries. Taking what we've learned over more than three decades, Cerner is building on the knowledge that is in the system to support evidence-based clinical decisions, prevent medical errors and empower patients in their care. For more information about Cerner, please visit www.cerner.com, [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

Overview

[East Jefferson General Hospital](#) (EJGH) is a 450 bed, not-for-profit community hospital serving the east bank of Jefferson Parish, Louisiana. EJGH provides its patients with the highest quality care through innovation and collaboration with its 3,000 team members and a medical staff of 900 as well as the greater community. Because of its dedication to its staff and patient care, EJGH was recognized as part of the American Nurses' Credentialing Center (ANCC) [Magnet Recognition Program](#)®.

The Magnet Recognition Program recognizes healthcare organizations for quality patient care, nursing excellence and innovations in professional nursing practice. With Magnet designation, patients can feel confident that they will receive high-quality nursing care. EJGH was the first hospital in the state of Louisiana to receive Magnet designation.

EJGH mobilizes staff for process improvement

EJGH's first foray into mobile computing resulted from an evaluation of the medication administration process. The nurses were required to use large, heavy carts on wheels (COWs), and while beneficial during a full round of medication administration, for one-off or single administration, it meant extra time and work for the nurses who had to maneuver the cumbersome carts. EJGH also wanted a device that could run its [Cerner](#) electronic health record (EHR) system, which provides access to vital information, records and databases during emergency situations, as well as facilitates bedside documentation.

After learning about [Motion Computing](#)® during a [Cerner Health Conference](#), EJGH piloted several [Motion](#)® C5 Tablet PCs. The pilot devices were such a success that the units were moved to the emergency department (ED) for a computerized physician order entry (CPOE) project. The physicians were in need of a durable, yet mobile device that would provide them with access to all necessary information at the point of care.

EJGH was having such success with the Motion Tablet PCs that the decision was made to equip each nursing unit with a device for a pressure ulcer prevention project, for which the nurses required photo documentation.

Challenge

Previously, the nurses were required to input detailed wound assessments into Cerner electronic power forms via COWs or desktop

PCs when patients first arrived at the hospital. According to Jody Torres, RN, director of nursing informatics, East Jefferson General Hospital, regardless of how many descriptors the nurses used, it was impossible to know exactly what the wounds looked like.

"A picture is definitely worth a thousand words, and we found that out first hand," said Torres. "We needed photos to accurately capture the patients' skin integrity at arrival. On patients with major wounds, it is necessary to do this periodically throughout the entire stay in order to ensure wounds are improving and to adhere to documentation and compliance protocols."

Solution

With its integrated digital and web cameras, EJGH immediately turned to the Motion C5v Tablet PC and equipped its 20 nursing units with the devices. In addition to wound documentation, the nurses can use the devices to access and input patient data. When not in use, the tablets are docked in docking stations and can be used with a mouse, keyboard and monitor as a desktop replacement. According to Torres, clinicians can undock in the middle of documentation and continue inputting information while mobile.

"From our research, Motion was first to come out with a tablet that's portable and has the integrated features, such as cameras and barcode scanners, that we needed while still being rugged and easily disinfected. This is huge for any healthcare environment where devices are going to be dropped and require disinfection between patient visits," said Torres. "It's also powerful enough to run our entire Cerner EHR in a usable format. The device's digitizer pen helps with clicking the application's small targets, and we can document without having to change our workflows."

Torres also cites the C5v Tablet PC's battery life as a crucial factor. EJGH had problems keeping the COWs charged and running, but battery life is never a factor with the tablets. "When docked, the tablets are charging, and the clinicians never have to worry about losing power."

Results

"The ability to document photos takes the process from words to something more visible," said Torres. "Now, the nurses take one

“When we started the project, the pilot nursing unit dropped to zero hospital-acquired pressure ulcers within the first month.”



device into the patient's room, snap the photo and immediately upload it to the patient's chart – there's no printing or scanning involved, meaning we save time and costs.”

Using preventative methods to battle hospital-acquired pressure ulcers

In 2008, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) began to decrease reimbursement for certain hospital-acquired incidents, such as pressure ulcers. While EJGH worked diligently to prevent pressure ulcers throughout the care process, documentation did not always begin at the patient's arrival. As a result, if a pressure ulcer was found during a patient's stay, it was categorized as hospital-acquired due to the inability to determine when it first occurred.

“It's critical that everything be documented appropriately. Currently, we use a risk assessment scale upon admission to evaluate the potential for pressure ulcers to develop,” said Torres. “If a patient is at risk when they first arrive, we take photos of skin areas where breakdowns most often occur and of any wounds that are present.”

With the Motion Tablet PC-enabled photo documentation process in place, EJGH drastically reduced hospital-acquired pressure ulcers, which has a significant financial impact. Additionally, caring for patients with wounds is more efficient for physicians and enterostomal therapy (ET) nurse specialists, as they can view the image of the wound prior to the initial visit in order to decide on treatment options and bring needed supplies. ET nurses also report that the wound images help them prioritize which patients are most in need when they have long lists of patients to see.



“When we started the project, the pilot nursing unit dropped to zero hospital-acquired pressure ulcers within the first month, and that is maintained as long as compliance with taking wound images for at-risk patients is consistent,” said Torres.

Most importantly, EJGH's patients benefit from the nurses' ability to catch pressure ulcers sooner and monitor them closely, meaning faster, enhanced treatment. The tablets help the hospital deliver on its mission of providing patients with the highest quality care while streamlining workflows.

Conclusion

In the near future, EJGH plans to reintroduce the C5v Tablet PCs for medication administration. Using the tablet's integrated barcode scanner, nurses can scan a patient's I.D. wristband as well as the barcode on the medication itself to ensure the right patient, medication, dose, route and time for that medication administration.

“The use of a small mobile device like the C5v Tablet PC, instead of pushing a COW to the room for single medication administration, such as non-scheduled, 'as needed' PRN medications, will help increase medication scanning compliance, therefore improving patient safety,” said Torres.

“The Motion Tablet PCs help increase efficiency, accuracy and reduce risk across the board, and it's the patients that benefit the most,” said Torres. “We continue to find more and more projects and workflows that can benefit from mobile computing and look forward to implementing additional devices.”