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CF-H1 MOBILE CLINICAL ASSISTANT (MCA) IN THE REGIONAL SPECIALIST HOSPITAL IN WROCŁAW

The Research and Development Centre of the Regional Specialist Hospital (RSH) in Wrocław provides more than 100,000 consultations and hospitalisation for 36,000 patients each year. It employs 121 specialists, 380 nurses and 80 midwives. The implementation of an electronic system of medical records allowed the hospital to manage information resources better, to improve the quality of medical services, and above all, to reduce the time spent on administrative matters, which in turn gives the medical staff more time for patients. RSH connected its electronic documentation system to the Toughbook CF-H1 MCA. More time for patients, better protection of their data, greater control and optimisation of hospital costs - these are the main benefits of the MCA's implementation.



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Toughbook CF-H1 - improves the work of medical personnel, delivering tangible benefits for patients.

Creating a truly modern institution

The Research and Development Centre of the Regional Specialist Hospital in Wrocław was founded in 1984. On its 17 wards almost 36,000 patients each year are hospitalised and it provides more than 100,000 consultations. It employs 121 specialists, 380 nurses and 80 midwives. For the local population of 200,000 inhabitants it is a unit of permanent on-call general surgery and, on a periodic basis, provides full vascular surgical service for all of Lower Silesia.

Since 2003, the hospital has been the only one in Lower Silesia, maintaining a balance between cost and revenue. Highly qualified staff work in this well-equipped center, applying modern techniques and standards of treatment and care. RSH is a leader in innovation, both in terms of management and technical solutions, as well as modern methods of treatment. Together with the Military Medical Institute in Warsaw, RSH is also implementing a project aimed at evaluating procedures and medical costs.

Innovative activities in the field of medical and hospital organisation are accompanied by investments in modern IT solutions. The hospital is systematically expanding its IT infrastructure, now having a database server which can be used by all hospitals in Wrocław. So it's now possible to implement central electronic medical records, which store all collected data on hospital servers.

The implementation of an electronic system of medical records allows the hospital to manage information resources more effectively, to improve the quality of medical services, and above all, to reduce the time spent on administrative matters, which in turn gives the medical staff more time for patients.

Before deploying the system, doctors and nurses had to fill various blanks with the same data repeatedly. Even routine activity such as the daily measurement of the patients' temperature had to be recorded in three different documents: the temperature chart at the bedside, the admission record, and the nurse report.

"The hospital was looking for solutions which would allow a single registration of the same data, and then automatically transfer it to other necessary documents. That was the idea which had driven creation of the electronic standard of medical records." says Beata Freier, Director of Medical Affairs and Marketing at the Regional Specialist Hospital in Wrocław.

Improvement of the work of medical personnel

"After the introduction of electronic medical records, we found out that it is worth to move forward and allow the medical staff to use the data and the patient's medical history directly at their bedside. Therefore, in December 2009 we decided, as the first hospital in Central and Eastern Europe, to connect electronic documentation system with portable solution of Mobile Clinical Assistant," explains Beata.

The MCA is designed specifically for clinical staff in the form of a portable tablet computer with touchscreen. All data entered into it is transmitted via a wireless network to the electronic medical records system, allowing immediate access from anywhere in the hospital. The device has been designed to work in demanding hospital environment - it is waterproof, resistant to shocks and falls, and easy to disinfect.

What is the CF-H1 MCA?

The Panasonic Toughbook CF-H1 is lightweight, waterproof, resistant to shocks and falls, easy to disinfect and meets the highest requirements in terms of mobility and network use in clinical settings. The CF-H1 can operate on batteries for up to 6 hours. Dual batteries can be replaced without interrupting operation, thus eliminating downtime. It also has a digital camera, fingerprint reader, barcode scanner, and RFID reader, improving the management and access for clinical staff to patients' data in health care institutions. The CF-H1 can also be easily disinfected, reducing the risk of infections transmitted from patient to patient. It has no exposed connectors, which are placed in the dock. The CF-H1 can withstand falls from a height of 90cm, the height of a patient's bed. It is resistant to vibration, humidity, altitude, temperature extremes and thermal shocks.

The benefits which the implementation of electronic medical records and the MCA brought to the Wrocław hospital and its patients, are multiple. Firstly, the fact that the system enforces systematic record keeping, has improved its quality. Electronic documents are bright, clear and at the same time more accurate than paper. Secondly, the data contained in the documents are better protected, because only authorized persons - after logging in to the system - have access to them. Thirdly, the implementation of the system has contributed significantly to saving doctors' and nurses' time, so they can diagnose patients more accurately and dedicate more time to them. Fourthly, the hospital has gained an excellent tool to specify the real cost of a patient's stay on its wards, due to precise checking of all procedures performed at the bedside. Therefore, the hospital intends to expand the system.



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