



Just Associates

MASTERING PATIENT IDENTITY

Utah Health Information Management Association

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Data Conversion - EHR

1.8M records from Meditech to Epic

- Data mapping – field to field definition and code value conversion
- Retention of all previous retiree MRNs needed to be retained
 - Multi-hospital facility therefore multiple Meditech databases each with own facility MRN
 - Meditech databases linked via “URN” across facilities
 - Retiree MRNs merged away have cross-reference or “Merged To” field to indicate the surviving MRN
- Develop implementation project plan, test plan, use case scenarios, test scripts and sample test records

The Challenge

Multiple Database Rows for One Record

- Due to “Merged To” methodology of storing cross-reference to Surviving MRN and also linking of all facilities MRNs to the patient, from three different Meditech databases, the
- challenge** was to:
 - Ensure only one record row for one patient existed in data conversion file for one patient – but,
 - The most recent demographic data for the patient was retained from the multiple database records, and
 - All current, active MRNs from various facilities AND all previous/retiree MRNs from various facilities were retained

Keys to Success

- Plan, **plan, plan** – map out the project, discuss weekly with key members of team and update, do thorough work break down to ensure key steps are not missed.
- **Communicate!** Project Manager's job is 95% communication – over communicate and be extremely specific. Engineers are very specific and direct:
 - If you ask, “did you check the interface log for patient John Smith ...”, they might answer “Yes”
 - But what you meant to say was “Did you check the outbound Meditech interface log to see if an A04 transaction was present for patient John Smith, MRN 123456 on 5/16/09 at 2 pm?”
- **Keep an Action Item** list – especially as you approach go live to ensure key steps and issue resolution are tracked and not lost – no matter how small the item
- **Test!** Lay out very specific scenarios, build defined test cases, ensure the right team members are involved in the testing and don't be afraid to be too thorough
- Check **interface logs** when tests don't prove out as expected
- **Question** – if something doesn't look right during testing, bring it up, even if question seems too basic or answer too obvious