

An EMR Consolidation Success Story:

CaroMont Health

CaroMont Health, a regional health system based in North Carolina, was sunsetting its 435-bed facility's EMR. With three outpatient facilities relying on a combination of three different EMRs, the health system took the opportunity to transition all of its facilities to one, single system.

Partnering with MediQuant to convert its disparate systems across multiple facilities to its go-forward EMR allowed CaroMont to realize a number of benefits:

- Heightened physicians' visibility across the care continuum
- Vastly improved reporting efficiency and capabilities – from regulatory reporting to sophisticated data mining for population health insights
- Increased data-driven decision-making across both its clinical and financial areas
- Reduced operational costs by eliminating the maintenance fees for its multiple, disparate systems

Approach

Accurately bringing together all the data stored in multiple, disparate systems across various practices is one of the biggest challenges and complexities of consolidating EMRs. And, during the EMR transition planning process, CaroMont heard many conflicting opinions from both vendors and other healthcare organizations about the data migration portion of their planned system transition.

With unanswered questions and a number of unknowns, CaroMont needed a strategy. By engaging MediQuant, CaroMont not only developed an EMR data consolidation strategy that instilled confidence, but also found a vendor with the experience and expertise to take on the data migration portion of the project.

MediQuant recommended a hybrid data migration approach of conversion and archival and, during the early planning stages of the project, helped CaroMont make informed decisions by providing:

- An understanding of every available option and clearly setting expectations regarding feasibility, cost, and timeline of each approach
- Expert healthcare data scientists whose collaboration helped create a strategy to maximize the value and usage of CaroMont's data, retain the full patient record and allow the health system to retire multiple legacy EMRs
- Experienced EMR data technologists whose consultation and guidance throughout the project offered to best practices for data migration and import methods (i.e., HL7, CCD, etc.)

Result

The hybrid approach proved successful.

Working with CaroMont's CMIO, Dr. Salim Saiyed, MediQuant's team migrated select EMR data elements directly into the new Epic EMR system. The remaining portions of the patient records were archived into PatientArchive®, an enterprise EMR archive solution which makes its archived data accessible from within Epic.

CaroMont started to realize the benefits of migration to a single EMR system in real-time. Its care team now has access to a complete clinical picture of each patient within its EMR. CaroMont's IT team was able to retire its legacy EMRs and reclaim the budget spend that had been dedicated to licensing as well as providing ongoing support and training for those disparate systems.

The health system is also well positioned to gain much deeper insights from their data for future decision-making.

"We are extremely happy with the increased flexibility we have after moving to a single EMR," said Dr. Saiyed. "Our care team now has visibility to the entire continuum of care, giving them a much more complete picture of a patient's health, and allowing us to deliver care more efficiently and effectively. The benefits we expect to receive from this consolidation greatly outweigh the costs."

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- Dr. Salim Saiyed
CMIO, CaroMont Health