Little Company of Mary Hospital

Making informed pharmacy decisions with Micromedex

Introduction

Little Company of Mary Hospital is a 298-bed, not-for-profit Catholic community hospital located in Evergreen Park, Illinois.

Before the hospital’s leadership reached out to IBM Watson Health,™ Little Company of Mary’s staff knew there was room for improvement in their pharmacy’s workflow related to efficiency in accessing drug information.

Overview

The need
Little Company of Mary Hospital needed a more efficient way to look up drug interactions and dosing.

The solution
The team used the IBM® Micromedex® suite of solutions to expedite and inform pharmacy decisions.

The benefit
Micromedex provided the Little Company of Mary staff with near real-time access to accurate drug information, allowing them to make faster decisions, ensure positive interactions and, ultimately, achieve better patient outcomes.
Rich Mioni, Critical Care Pharmacy Specialist, had a familiarity with the Micromedex suite of solutions. He had used Micromedex during his residency, and when he began his search for a solution that would speed the drug information review process, he knew exactly where to turn.

“When it comes to drug information, speed, accuracy and reliability are all vital, and Micromedex was the most efficient way to rapidly get that information,” Mioni said. “You never want just ‘Google it’ or use sources that aren’t reputable, so we needed something that would give us the immediacy of running our questions through a search engine, but that would also give us answers that are backed up by years of industry expertise.”

Avoiding negative interactions, unnecessary procedures

With new drugs coming to market every day, pharmacists could commit every waking hour to combing through literature and still not be able to digest all the possible variables that could lead to adverse drug interactions. That’s why Mioni and his team find Micromedex to be so valuable.

“If there are drugs I’m not familiar with, the solution helps me confidently determine an appropriate dosage range and what we should be ordering for our patients,” he explained. “That’s even more important when it comes to IV compatibility. We always have issues with so many drugs being infused, that we need to find out: Can these drugs run together? Do we need an extra line? Do we need a central access point? There have been numerous times where we’ve thought a drug could go together, and a search has told us that is not the case. Had those drugs interacted, it would have led to an adverse outcome for our patient.”

Even though the use of Micromedex has played a key role in preventing clinical errors, the solution’s larger benefit is saving patients from having procedures that they simply don’t need.

“Even more than catching two drugs that can’t go together, using Micromedex allows us to uncover certain drugs that are compatible with one another,” Mioni explained. “In those instances, a lot of times we can avoid invasive central line placement or additional peripheral access by allowing two or more drugs to infuse together in the same line, which provides a huge clinical benefit.”
Better decisions on the go

In any healthcare setting, the need for a mobile solution can be just as pressing as immediate access to information. That’s why Mioni and his team find the Micromedex mobile app to be so valuable in the ICU setting.

“The mobile app is a real game changer for us. It provides so much information right at our fingertips on a device that everyone always has with them,” he explained. “I’ve used the app in the middle of code or emergency situations, where someone is actively administering chest compressions and we need to make a quick decision. In those situations, it’s not feasible to go run out to a computer and look something up; having that information so readily available can be lifesaving.”

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