

Value Study

DermSurgery Associates

Multi-location Clinic and Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) Consolidates Patient Electronic Medical Records and Workflow with Microsoft Office SharePoint 2010

DermSurgery Associates specializes in state-of-the-art laser surgery procedures, dermatologic surgical procedures and Mohs surgeries, as well as an array of skincare and cosmetic services. Using Stone Bond Technologies' Enterprise Enabler integration and Microsoft's SharePoint 2010, DermSurgery brought together information from multiple clinics and ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs) and from several EMR and specialty systems. Patient information is synchronized among the systems and accessed in SharePoint, effectively creating virtual electronic medical records.

Business Needs

DermSurgery Associates specializes in state-of-the-art laser surgery procedures, dermatological surgical procedures and Mohs surgeries, as well as an array of skincare and cosmetic services in the Greater Houston area. With multiple locations, these clinics and ambulatory surgery centers have patient information spread across several software systems and databases. Patient records include a host of data, forms, images, and documents that capture the history of symptoms, diagnoses, and treatment, along with administrative information such as insurance and referrals. Paper patient charts are often needed by multiple people at the same time, creating a difficult challenge in coordination and maintaining the integrity of the file. There is not a single software system that covers all of the medical and business functions and information management that is required for a facility like DermSurgery. One system is used to capture initial information about a new patient, for scheduling, and for billing. Surgery details are captured in an EMR designed for that purpose. At DermSurgery, forms and documents were handled by Microsoft Word and images were cataloged and stored in another system. Also, each surgeon maintains his own complete database of detailed information for each surgery performed. Time spent re-entering data in multiple systems, locating paper charts, dealing with data entry errors, and transcribing details into the doctors' databases all were challenges for the team at DermSurgery to deliver on their mission statement. Dr. Leonard Goldberg, MD, FRCP, and his colleagues at DermSurgery Associates are driven by their organization's mission "to bring outstanding care to all our patients - care delivered in a spirit of warmth, responsiveness and pride. Our patients' health, comfort and peace of mind are our foremost concern." This and their commitment to staying on the forefront of technologies and procedures, led DermSurgery to an initiative to synchronize and consolidate information from all their systems into a single interface so that patient records, administrative information and medical research data can always be available securely to the person who needs it.

"Until Enterprise Enabler came along, integration of data into SharePoint was extremely difficult and prohibitively expensive."

- Leonard H. Goldberg, M.D., DermSurgery Associates

The Solution

To streamline the clinic and surgery center workflows, reduce errors in data entered in multiple systems, and make the full patient electronic medical records available instantly whenever needed, DermSurgery decided to create an application in SharePoint 2010, integrating and synchronizing the data using Enterprise Enabler. Enterprise Enabler is a next-generation integration technology that is "embedded" into SharePoint 2010 for seamless data access to

virtually any database or software system, transforming and aggregating the data as needed. It is the only technology that aggregates data from multiple sources into a single web part, often without programming at all. Dr. Leonard Goldberg remarked, "Until Enterprise Enabler came along, integration of data into SharePoint was extremely difficult and prohibitively expensive. This opens the opportunity for any size facility to make EMR data sharing a reality. Enterprise Enabler supports very rapid configuration, with little or no programming, to achieve the integration necessary to support President Obama's electronic medical record vision for the future." The solution synchronizes data behind the scenes to ensure that the NextGen EMR for the ambulatory surgery center is always in sync with the clinics' patient management system, PulsePro, as well as the special databases of each surgeon. The integration was designed and developed graphically, using Enterprise Enabler, which automatically generates the Business Data Catalog, which is SharePoint's metadata definition for external lists (data that is to be displayed in a SharePoint web part). In SharePoint, several web parts were built for user interaction, both viewing and data entry/correction. The "update" features in SharePoint 2010 and supported by Enterprise Enabler allow for bi-directional integration via the BDC. End user security ensures that only the employees with specific rights to view or edit data can do so. The document management features inherent to SharePoint provide security, organization, and workflow around the patient electronic medical records (EMRs) and related administrative documents.

*"Our new system brings all of the patient's information into SharePoint as a virtual EMR."
Linda Taibel, DermSurgery Associates Business Manager*

Benefits

Consolidates Patient Electronic Medical Record - DermSurgery's Business Manager Linda Taibel says, "Our new system brings all of the patient's information into SharePoint as a virtual EMR, regardless of what system each piece resides in. There is no program in a medical office that covers everything in the office and pulls it all together. This does it for us, and it's customizable, which is huge."

"Our having the virtual consolidation of the EMR is the first step to sharing it with other physicians and facilities that treat our patients, and ultimately to supporting the concept of patient held EMRs that can be read and updated anywhere in the world," added Dr. Goldberg.

Reduces Clerical Activities - Savings is estimated at about 20% of administrative time by eliminating data entry, error correction, and searching for patients' files.

Immediate Access to Patient Information - Eliminating delays waiting for access to information means DermSurgery staff can respond better and more quickly with analysis, diagnosis, and treatment, and deliver warm, personal care while striving to provide the finest services in the world.

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