Improving Patient Throughput in the Emergency Department

Case Study: HENRY MAYO NEWHALL MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

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Quick Facts:
Organization: Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital
Industry: Healthcare
Location: Valencia, CA
Outpatients treated: 85.8 K
Inpatients: 12.7 K
Patients treated in ED: 36.5 K
Customer since: 2010
Solution: Diver Platform®
Website: henrymayo.com

BACKGROUND
Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial (Henry Mayo) is a 238-bed, not-for-profit, acute care community hospital in Valencia, California, serving the fast-growing Santa Clarita Valley. As part of its vision to create an ideal patient-centered environment, the hospital embarked on becoming a “digital” hospital with its decision to replace the mainframe-based computer system with a MEDITECH Client/Server Healthcare Information System.

The EHR system was to be implemented in two phases: Phase 1 replaced admissions, order entry, pharmacy, lab and patient billing functionality; and Phase 2 was to implement advanced clinical applications, including Emergency Department Management (EDM). In addition, the hospital decided to acquire business intelligence and reporting technology to improve its decision-making capabilities, and selected Dimensional Insight’s Diver Platform (Diver).

CHALLENGES
As Henry Mayo was about to begin Phase 2 in 2010, hospital executives decided to accelerate implementation of the MEDITECH EDM. The hospital’s goal was to implement EDM in just seven months—rather than rolling out the software in two stages over a suggested 18 month time period.

Prior to the EDM implementation, Henry Mayo did not have the patient flow data necessary to identify and manage Emergency Department (ED) bottlenecks, resulting in long patient wait times in the ED, as well as admission and discharge delays. Additionally, patients were leaving the ED without being seen, creating health risks for the patient and reducing ED revenues.

WORKING IN STEP
The hospital’s decision to compress an 18-month, phased EDM implementation into a few months’ overlapping implementation required Henry Mayo staff, Dimensional Insight, and MEDITECH to work in step: the hospital to lay out the vision, specify work flows, and provide project management and coordination; MEDITECH to implement the EDM system; and Dimensional Insight, working with the Henry Mayo’s Decision Support Team, to extract patient workflow data from EDM, build data models, and create dashboards and scorecards to track results against targets and key performance indicators (KPIs).

BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE DRIVES PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS
During EDM implementation and testing, Diver ED reports and dashboards helped to refine workflow processes and better understand compliance. For example, initial Diver reports identified a long delay from the time the patient entered the ED to the time the patient saw a doctor. This led to a high percentage of patients leaving the ED without seeing a doctor. Henry Mayo worked with MEDITECH to add a checkpoint to the nursing workflow. Working in concert, Dimensional Insight, MEDITECH, and Henry Mayo quickly refined procedures to rapidly identify bottlenecks in the flow of patients through the department.
THE RESULTS SAY IT ALL

With the EDM installation, Henry Mayo now has a system capable of generating patient flow data at each step in the process. This data is leveraged in Diver to provide a comprehensive and timely view of ED performance with dashboards and reports that aid management in improving ED throughput, utilization, and efficiency.

Measures are available to track end-to-end patient workflow, from the door to triage, to being seen by a doctor, to decision to admit, to clean room available and to transport to an inpatient room. Moreover, this information is available to clinicians and administrators at each step of the process. Managers are able to easily identify trends and exceptions. The availability of timely data allows them to quickly spot a measure that requires attention, immediately dive into the underlying details to get to the cause, and initiate improvement actions.

The results are impressive. ED wait times have been reduced in multiple areas:

- From the time a patient enters through the ED doors to triage — 80% decrease.
- From triage to room — 60% decrease.
- From room to physician exam — 63% decrease.

Wait time improvements have also reduced by 83% the number of patients leaving the ED without being seen, translating into an additional $2 million per year in ED revenues.
About Dimensional Insight

Dimensional Insight® is a leading provider of analytics, data management, and performance management solutions, offering a complete portfolio of capabilities ranging from data integration and modeling to sophisticated reporting, analytics, and dashboards. The company is a six-time Best in KLAS winner in healthcare business intelligence and analytics, most recently ranking #1 in 2019. Founded in 1989, Dimensional Insight has thousands of customer organizations worldwide. Dimensional Insight consistently ranks as a top performing analytics organization by customers and industry analysts in its core market segments including healthcare, manufacturing, and beverage alcohol. For more information, please visit https://www.dimins.com/.