Creating the Archive for Aurora Health Care’s Migration from Cerner to Epic

The Organization

Aurora Health Care is a large private not-for-profit integrated provider in the Midwest. More than $4 billion in annual revenue from 15 hospitals, 159 clinic sites and 70 retail pharmacies. It has more than 1.2 million unique patients with 7.8 million patient encounters annually. The organization includes 31,000 caregivers and 1,700 employed physicians.

The Situation

Migrating from Cerner to Epic, the health system was under a time crunch to decommission Cerner as its AIX/Oracle 8 platform was coming to end-of-life on support. In addition, the system retirement would return a significant savings on system maintenance costs and IT labor burden, both of which were being re-directed to the Epic implementation. The requirements of the project were to:

- retain 100% of the patient care and system audit information for an indefinite number of years
- access historical records via a user interface that minimized training
- requirements as the user base was focused on learning how to use Epic
- preserve user access levels, ensuring ready and secure enterprise-wide accessibility to historical records
- ensure the capability to efficiently respond to release of information requests

Scope of the Project

WHAT WAS ARCHIVED

Numerous product modules and external integrations, including: 3M SoftMed, EMC AppExtender, Fujifilm Synapse, Fujifilm Teramedica, Siemens Syngo, GE ViewPoint

- 32 TB of primary Cerner data
- 89 million encounters
- 3.1 billion clinical results
- 33.5 million patient accounts
- 75TB of images
- 45 million MAR
- 34 million scanned documents

“Our archive is an enterprise-wide win that exceeds our expectations. The solution is smart. The training was simple. The customer service is excellent. Mission accomplished.”

Vince Trier, Director IT Applications Aurora Health Care
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The Solution

The Harmony Healthcare IT team analyzed the record retention policy, gathered cross-departmental system requirements and put the right resources in place to comprehensively archive all of the legacy data. The project was completed on time and on budget within 12 months from signature. There were 6,358 active users at the time of transition. Today, there are about 2,000 named users total, 650 of which login concurrently each day.

The Results

- Return on Investment – less than 12 months
- Integrity of Archived Data – data required for full compliance with audits or litigation was maintained
- User Access Roles/Privileges – respected in the archive, including historical chart access
- Clinical Context – user views and custom tabs preserved and applied in the archive
- User Accounts – simple account provisioning and clean up
- Existing Reports – clinical and administrative reports and data extracts ported over to the archive (i.e., chart access reports to information security, account provisioning/de-provisioning processes)
- No Changes to External Dependencies – external systems and processes that relied on Cerner data continue to receive the information in original format

Services Offered

- Retention Consulting Services
- Data Extraction
- Data Migration
- Data Harmonization
- Data Scrubbing
- Data Validation
- Reporting

About Harmony Healthcare IT

Harmony Healthcare IT is a legacy data management firm that archives patient, employee and business records. To strengthen care delivery and improve lives, we preserve vital information in a way that keeps it secure, compliant, accessible and usable. Since 2006, our team of experts has extracted, migrated and retained billions of records and petabytes of data from over 350 different clinical, financial and administrative software brands. That information is secured on our cloud-based storage platform, HealthData Archiver®.