

Effective Vendor Relationships Support Data Retention and Archiving Strategies

The Organization

A not-for-profit, health system in the West region of the United States, has over 25,000 healthcare providers at over 200 clinics and 25 hospitals. The organization delivers care to patients in cities both big and small.

The Situation

The health system values robust data retention policies, particularly when it comes to managing legacy data following a merger and acquisition (M&A). These policies help clarify which data to archive and for how long. Effective archival strategies promote compliance with state and federal regulations and mitigate unnecessary costs associated with maintaining multiple legacy systems following an M&A. For this health system, the need for comprehensive archiving strategies first emerged when it adopted Epic as its go-forward electronic health system (EHR), which required archiving its existing MEDITECH instance.

The Solution

Upon evaluating several archive solutions, HealthData Archiver® from Harmony Healthcare IT was found to outshine the competition. For this reason, the health system chose Harmony Healthcare IT to lead its archival work. Since then, the healthcare organization has worked with Harmony Healthcare IT to build a centralized archiving system, reduce costs, promote ease of access and make patient records more secure. The two organizations have collaborated to develop resources and tools that drive a powerful data retention and archiving strategy by creating a robust and ongoing partnership.

CASE STUDY

Organizational Profile

- Nonprofit health system
- The Western US
- 25 hospitals
- Go-forward: Epic
- MEDITECH and gGastro archive

Product

HEALTHDATA ARCHIVER

Close Partnerships with Vendors Supports Emergent Data Archiving Needs

The partnership between the health system and Harmony Healthcare IT was on full display when the health system acquired two hospitals, in two states. As part of this M&A, the health system gained a large amount of historical gGastro EHR patient imaging data. Following the initial discovery, the health system ran into a speed bump: it faced losing read-only access to the data, so it needed to pivot quickly to archive. However, the health system was still building its overall strategy and approach to archiving. Creating an internal infrastructure and process to complete this archiving task would have taken far too long.

The Results

The health system turned to Harmony Healthcare IT, quickly aligning resources to complete the work and validate test data to deploy the archive. The close relationship and ongoing collaboration between the health system and Harmony Healthcare IT made this work possible. The two organizations knew from the outset who was responsible for what and what was expected of whom. The health system understood what the end result would look like, removing uncertainty about how to complete the project under a tight timeline. Harmony Healthcare IT even finished the archival project ahead of schedule, within two weeks' time.

Lesson Learned

M&A activity creates several challenges when it comes to data management, including the need to rationalize applications following a merger. What you learn during the initial discovery can also change quickly. Establishing an archiving strategy and a strong relationship with an expert vendor can help prepare you for the unexpected. Strong relationships help create expediency and trust so both sides can accomplish archival work effectively under tight timelines. A proven strategy can help manage costs and guide decisions about what records to archive.



Ph (800) 781-1044
Harmony Healthcare IT