

Legacy Data to the Rescue: Archived Implant Data Helps to Identify a Dead Body

The Organization

Cone Health is an integrated not-for-profit network of health care providers serving people in over six counties in North Carolina. The organization's tagline – "The Network for Exceptional Care" – highlights its commitment to excellence, which is shared by more than 12,000 employees, 1,300 physicians and 1,200 volunteers.

As one of the region's largest and most comprehensive health networks, Cone Health has more than 100 locations, including six hospitals, three ambulatory care centers, three outpatient surgical centers, four urgent care centers, a retirement community, more than 100 physician practice sites and multiple centers of excellence.

The Situation

Alamance Regional Medical Center (ARMC), a part of the Cone Health network is a believer in strong lifecycle data management. As an early adopter of electronic medical records, the hospital started using its SCM EHR in the late 1980's. With the health system's move to Epic® as its go-forward EHR system, Harmony Healthcare IT has helped ARMC archive four terabytes of legacy data. There were many reasons ARMC chose to archive its legacy data; however, little did the team know its decision would allow them to help identify a dead body.

The Literal Needle in the Haystack

In 2018, Cone Health received a call from a Florida-based detective inquiring whether a fastener's serial number from a hip implant would be enough information to identify a dead body. The detective knew, from the manufacturer, that the fastener shipped to the health system in 2009, but, that was all he had for clues. With tens of millions of patient records before them, the Cone Health team went to work, querying its archived data. Within hours, they managed to both identify the patient and help solve the case.

CASE STUDY



Organizational Profile

- 100+ location non-profit provider
- North Carolina
- EHR archive
- Migration of 12+ acute and ambulatory EHRs to Epic

Product

HEALTHDATA
ARCHIVER



Amanda Barnhardt
IT Archiving Analyst
Cone Health

"I could not ask for a better team of professionals to help with our archiving project. We were able to overcome challenges and develop and tweak the archive as needed to make it even better than we originally thought. This was due to Harmony's willingness to lead, share knowledge and to listen. That created a partnership between Cone and Harmony that allowed us to effectively archive a large amount of data in a small amount of time."

Archiving Saves the Day and More

Archiving is a powerful solution as described in this example. It can improve lives by providing caregivers access to important historical clinical information on living patients — such as how much chemo they have received during their lifetime, what medications they have been prescribed in the past, or whether they should be notified as part of a recall on an implanted device.

The Solution

As a part of its archiving solution, Cone Health called on the Harmony Healthcare IT team for data extraction services from more than a dozen ambulatory and acute EHR systems. That data was migrated, validated and retained in HealthData Archiver®, a long-term and secure data storage solution, that is well-equipped with eDiscovery and release of information workflow capabilities. The solution is scalable and easy to work with to find and share information when it is needed.

The Results

Archiving allows legal and health information management (HIM) teams to discover and retrieve patient information when necessary. It allows physicians and allied practitioners to review patient histories and associated results. It enables cancer center professionals to adjust treatment plans to better the health of patients receiving care. It provides implant information that can be vitally important during times of recall. These are just a few of the use-cases for securing historical information discretely so it can be searched and filtered.



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