

Clinical Drug Information

Northeast Georgia Health System Switches to Lexicomp® Offerings

Solution provides site-wide access to Lexicomp drug and clinical information in 31 hospitals

CLIENT PROFILE:

NORTHEAST GEORGIA HEALTH SYSTEM

Steve Carlson's workday just got easier. Although just as busy and hard-working as he was yesterday, Carlson, director of pharmacy of Northeast Georgia Health System (NGHS) in Gainesville, Georgia, now has quicker, easier access to relevant drug information.

NGHS is now using Lexicomp from Wolters Kluwer Clinical Drug Information as its drug information resource, giving Carlson and all NGHS pharmacists, physicians and nurses site-wide, point-of-care access to Lexicomp trusted drug and clinical content.

Carlson, who has over 25 years of experience in pharmacy management, was among the NGHS clinicians charged with selecting a site-wide drug information solution to replace the health system's existing resource.

“Lexicomp will help us save a great deal of money over the next three years. It will also help our clinicians save time when looking up formulary information and prescribing medications, and ultimately, we believe it will help us improve the quality of care we provide patients.”

– Steve Carlson
Director of Pharmacy
Northeast Georgia Health System

NGHS CLINICIANS FIND ANSWERS FASTER

Among the top reasons Carlson and his colleagues chose Lexicomp Online drug reference was its intuitive interface and ease of use – which helps enable clinicians to find answers faster than with other commonly used resources.

“It is critical that we have a site-wide solution that is easy to use for all clinicians,” said Carlson. “With Lexicomp, it takes the least amount of clicks to get to the answer, so clinicians find answers faster.”

Selecting a drug information database that helped enable more efficient access to information at the point of care also proved vital to NGHS cardiology clinical coordinator and staff educator Jennifer Mashburn.

“Lexicomp speeds up our workflow and enables us to find the information faster,” said Mashburn. “If a nurse has to stop what she is doing to call the pharmacy to get an answer to a clinical question, she wastes 15 minutes in her day. With Lexicomp, all our nurses have the information they need readily available. That is so important because time is of the essence.”

Mashburn, a registered nurse with more than 17 years of experience in healthcare, is part of a team of approximately 160 nurses that initially engaged in a trial of Lexicomp in NGHS's 78-bed cardiology unit.



For many years, NGHS has been rated the No. 1 hospital in cardiac care according to independent healthcare ratings organization HealthGrades®. According to Mashburn, this is one reason it was crucial that the nurses in her unit played an integral role in selecting the health system's new drug information reference solution.

"In our cardiac unit, we use the most medications, so we were chosen as the nursing trial unit for NGHS," said Mashburn. "Lexicomp tells you what you need to know right now, and it is so easy to use so naturally, the nurses in my unit went straight to Lexicomp for their drug information."

SEAMLESS TRANSITION TO LEXICOMP

Despite having used its previous drug information database for over 10 years, NGHS pharmacists, physicians and nurses have made a seamless transition to Lexicomp.

"When we went live, the transition was outstanding," said Carlson. "There were very few questions, and we made an excellent conversion."

Mashburn added, "The customer support team sent us quick reference guides to hand out to our clinicians, but so far we haven't needed them. The transition has been very smooth."

PATIENT EDUCATION HELPS NGHS CLINICIANS ENHANCE SAFETY

NGHS clinicians also appreciate the user-friendly Wolters Kluwer patient education materials accessible with Lexicomp offerings to help improve engagement and enhance patient safety. Written in an easy-to-read format, patient education handouts enable NGHS clinicians to provide patients specific, in-depth information about their medication condition, care and overall health.

"We evaluated the patient education handouts in Lexicomp, and our nurses absolutely loved that they are available in 19 languages and are extremely easy to read for the patient," said Carlson. "Nurses can look up information on medications, conditions and procedures, and even diseases – this is critical information for our patients."

Mashburn added, "The patient education materials provided by Lexicomp are reader-friendly and easy to understand – this is key for our patients as it helps them better understand information about their medications and overall care."

Designed to enhance patients' understanding of their conditions and care instructions, Wolters Kluwer patient education handouts help empower patients with knowledge that helps them feel more comfortable with their treatment options.

"When we are discharging patients, it is very important they get relevant, in-depth information about their medications," said Mashburn. "Patient education materials are consistent, and the patient likes having this information. It is a huge benefit for patient safety."

STREAMLINED ACCESS TO FORMULARY INFORMATION

As part of the process to select a new drug information resource, NGHS clinicians carefully evaluated the ease of use and accessibility of the Lexicomp formulary management service. It was important that the formulary database

About Northeast Georgia Health System

Northeast Georgia Health System (NGHS) is a not-for-profit community health system dedicated to improving the health and quality of life of the people of Northeast Georgia. Through the services of a medical staff of more than 500 physicians, the residents of Northeast Georgia enjoy access to many of the state's finest and most comprehensive medical services.



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