



Clinical Drug Information

## Wolters Kluwer Clinical Drug Information Helps Hospital Group Optimize MEDITECH EHR

Medi-Span® drug data supports medication screening and coding at five RegionalCare Hospital Partners hospitals, helping the facilities achieve Meaningful Use.

### CLIENT PROFILE:

#### REGIONALCARE HOSPITAL PARTNERS

In the race to satisfy Meaningful Use requirements and compete for government incentives, American hospitals must implement robust, site-wide electronic health records

(EHRs). An essential part of the equation is drug data, embedded within the EHR to power all medication decision support and safety screenings, touching healthcare professionals from physicians, to pharmacists, to nurses.

For Tennessee-based RegionalCare Hospital Partners, a consortium of eight community hospitals throughout the U.S., the choice was clear. Medi-Span®, one of the respected applications of Wolters Kluwer Clinical Drug Information, helps RegionalCare stay on the cutting edge with effective, efficient medication data that integrates smartly into its EHR functionality.

*“I’ve come to rely on Medi-Span. It’s the end-all, be-all when it comes to medication data.”*

– Philip Joy

Manager, Clinical Systems, RegionalCare

“We leverage Medi-Span for a number of things,” explains Philip Joy, RegionalCare’s manager of clinical systems. “We use (the data) on the inpatient side for interactions tracking. We use RxNorm codes to achieve Meaningful Use measures. We use the embedded data in MEDITECH® all the time.”

### DRUG DATA IN EHR

Within RegionalCare’s informatics, Joy is responsible for overseeing “anything that touches medication,” including implementation, operations, medication reconciliation, and prescription order entry, in five of the eight hospitals RegionalCare manages. All facilities under his watch – comprising hospitals in Alabama, Connecticut, Iowa, Pennsylvania and Texas – use Medi-Span data embedded into MEDITECH EHRs.

“I’ve come to rely on Medi-Span. It’s the end-all, be-all when it comes to medication data,” Joy says.

RegionalCare hospitals primarily use Medi-Span files to power clinical screenings for drug interactions and drug allergies, as well as for coding all the drug products in its formularies to nationally mandated RxNorm vocabularies.

## MEANINGFUL USE

Meaningful Use “requires drug-drug interaction checking as demonstrated via screenshot,” Joy explains. “Without Medi-Span data as the foundation for what our physician order system is built on, we’d be dead in the water. Without it, we would not have been able to attest for Meaningful Use Stage 1, or in the future, attest for Stage 2.”

Medi-Span data also allows Joy and his staff to work more efficiently and feel confident they are providing clinicians current, relevant information, he notes. Without Medi-Span files, which Joy opts to update quarterly with a simple data download, the staff would be stuck keying in data and manually updating its system. “It would be more than a full-time job,” Joy says.

## DRUG PRICING SOLUTIONS

Joy also employs Medi-Span Price Rx®, a subscription-based online drug pricing information and analysis tool. He accesses Price Rx at least two or three times a week, he says, to search drug products and verify formulary information, calling it “one of the biggest time-savers I’ve ever used.”

“Using Price Rx has been a godsend,” Joy says. “Just having the capability to go in and pop in any NDC or ingredients and review generics or check the price (of a drug) has been invaluable.”

## FIGHTING ALERT FATIGUE

As RegionalCare hospitals work toward satisfying the various stages of Meaningful Use, Joy has observed an uptick in the amount of clinical warnings being generated to assist clinicians. “We need to make sure clinicians are not getting alert fatigue and popups aren’t white noise,” he says.

Using Medi-Span data within the MEDITECH EHR, Joy has been able to flag severe drug interactions and adverse drug events to help focus clinical screening on the most relevant warnings clinicians need. Interaction and allergen warnings are also audited and documented, allowing him to keep track of alerts the system generates.

## SUPERIOR CUSTOMER SERVICE

Joy has worked with Medi-Span data since 2006 – although it’s been used in some of his hospitals since 2002 – and says he has been pleased with the assistance he’s received from the Wolters Kluwer Clinical Drug Information sales and support teams. It is extremely rare, Joy notes, that he ever encounters a problem with Medi-Span data or its implementation and maintenance. “The few times I’ve had to call, the response has always been prompt and professional.

“We’re very satisfied with Medi-Span,” Joy says. “From an informatics standpoint, I’m very happy with the (offerings) and the data in there.”

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– Philip Joy  
Manager, Clinical Systems  
RegionalCare

### About RegionalCare Hospital Partners

RegionalCare Hospital Partners is a privately owned corporation with a mission of putting together winning management teams and building hospital market share for medium-sized hospitals across the country. An affiliation with RegionalCare provides expertise to the management team and significant access to capital for the hospital organization to expand regionally. RegionalCare hospitals are interconnected with cost-effective group purchasing of supplies and other services and sharing best practices and leadership interaction. But each hospital remains as a full-service institution with its own unique history and strategic vision. RegionalCare currently manages eight hospitals: Eliza Coffee Memorial Hospital in Florence, Alabama; Shoals Hospital in Muscle Shoals, Alabama; Sierra Vista Regional Health Center in Sierra Vista, Arizona; Sharon Hospital in Sharon, Connecticut; Ottumwa Regional Health Center in Ottumwa, Iowa; Clinton Memorial Hospital in Wilmington, Ohio; Southwest Regional Medical Center in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania; and Paris Regional Medical Center in Paris, Texas.



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855.633.0577 | +1 330.650.6506  
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