

Froedtert HOSPITAL

Froedtert & Community Health

Challenge

Froedtert and Community Health were looking for innovative strategies to help its hospitals drive revenue and reduce costs. Froedtert partnered with AmerisourceBergen's outcomes-based consulting and technology groups to optimize their inpatient pharmacy to drive increased cost savings, patient safety, and greater efficiency.

Solution

AmerisourceBergen consultants collaborated with Froedtert to redesign its medication management policies and practice, remodel its facilities for maximum resource efficiency, and install new, advanced technologies that could better manage multiple types of dispensing.

Result

Froedtert has realized significant cost savings from 2002 through 2008. Froedtert is considering expanding its operations for outpatients, a great revenue opportunity for the hospital and a value-added service for the local community.

Froedtert Health System optimizes inpatient pharmacy for clinical and operational efficiency.

AmerisourceBergen® and Froedtert Hospital partner to achieve significant savings for the hospital in the first few years of implementing cost control, operational efficiency, and patient safety improvements.

Situation

Froedtert and Community Health is a regional health system in southeastern Wisconsin made up of three hospitals, primary care clinics, totaling more than 750 beds. Froedtert Hospital is the health system's 485-bed flagship hospital and an academic medical center, staffed by faculty of the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Challenge

Like many health systems in the country, Froedtert and Community Health were looking for innovative strategies that could help its hospitals drive revenue and reduce costs, while maintaining its commitment to providing highly-coordinated, cost-effective care to its patients. Froedtert turned to AmerisourceBergen, already its longtime pharmaceutical supply chain partner, to help assess and implement opportunities for improved medication management processes through pharmacy workflow and medication policy review.

"We knew this initiative would take a lot of hard work and preparation, but we also realized this partnership had tremendous return on investment, substantially decreasing costs, improving patient safety, and exposing new growth opportunities for our health system," says Todd Karpinski, Director of Pharmacy at Froedtert Hospital. "Knowing the outcome, we were willing to put in the necessary work, with AmerisourceBergen's help."

Solution

The first step was to evaluate the operational and clinical processes already in place in the hospital. As part of the consulting agreement, AmerisourceBergen consultants were placed full-time in the hospital. After a careful assessment, AmerisourceBergen collaborated with Froedtert to design and implement the following initiatives:

- New medication policies
- Pharmacy resource management allocation
- Collaboration with multi-disciplinary healthcare team
- Formulary development for clinical and economic benefit
- Identification of cost-effective methods for segregating medications for Medicaid reimbursement
- Medication policy best practices

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For more information about these and other Quality Care Solutions, contact AmerisourceBergen at 877-892-1254, email solutions@amerisourcebergen.com, or visit our new website at www.amerisourcebergendrug.com.

In addition to clinical process, AmerisourceBergen also identified areas within the operational processes of the pharmacy that could be adjusted. Over time, the inpatient pharmacy was remodeled for optimum workflow. This included replacing its existing pharmacy hardware with several of AmerisourceBergen's premier RxWorks Suite® technology solutions, designed to help health systems achieve their unique clinical, economic, and operational objectives. At Froedtert, these technologies included:

- FastPak® EXP oral solid pouch packaging and barcoding system
- Four FastFind® Universal automated storage and retrieval systems, including two for the supply room and two for inpatient areas
- SupplyWorks inventory management software

This holistic approach, where consultants assess the whole medication management process of a health system, rather than just pharmacy workflow and operations, is a unique strength of AmerisourceBergen and a significant differentiator from other competitive pharmaceutical distributors.

The Result

Through the partnership with AmerisourceBergen consulting and technology groups, Froedtert has been able to successfully optimize their inpatient pharmacy clinically and operationally, including the development of treatment guidelines, use of generic medications, formulary management, in-house processing of specialty pharmaceuticals, and implementation of unparalleled technologies. As a result, Froedtert has realized extensive cost savings from 2002 through 2008.

And now that its inpatient pharmacy has been optimized; the hospital is considering expanding its operations for outpatients, a great revenue opportunity for the hospital. “We are looking forward to continuing our work with AmerisourceBergen, and building upon the foundation that we've laid for our pharmacies,” says Karpinski.

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