



MEDITECH E X P A N S E

MEDITECH Solutions for Common Patient Safety Challenges

Patient safety is more than just a [week-long initiative](#). By continually evaluating EHRs, common patient safety challenges can be identified and remedied before they have an adverse impact on patients and healthcare organizations.

But it takes a village to design an EHR that [provides clinicians with the information they need](#), the way they want to see it. MEDITECH's Expanse EHR is the product of a strong collaboration between MEDITECH and clinical informaticists. While enhancing usability is an important aspect of an EHR, having a solution that reduces patient safety events and improves [customer satisfaction](#) can have an invaluable impact on patients, clinicians, and healthcare organizations.

MEDITECH provides patient safety guidelines, education, and action plans through our EHR Patient Safety Review Board and [Customer EHR Patient Safety Advisory Board](#). These channels give our community of nurses, pharmacists, physicians, and quality experts the chance to work closely with MEDITECH's Implementation, Client Services, and Development divisions to create an EHR solution that is better, stronger, and safer.

In a recent [HIStalk Curbside Consult](#), Dr. Jayne identifies several common EHR issues that can impact patient safety, along with her "shortlist of solutions for error reduction within the EHR." MEDITECH's Expanse EHR currently addresses a number of items on Dr. Jayne's shortlist.

Order Entry

Challenge:

Formularies are often limited to only the routes that are appropriate to the drug, doses are not hard-coded, and orders aren't linked to avoid errors of omission.

MEDITECH's Solution:

Give providers an accurate list of available and appropriate medication data during order entry.

- [First Data Bank's \(FDB\) Framework API](#) and MEDITECH's [String Management Tool](#) allow organizations to suppress an "oral" route of administration from ophthalmic medications.
- [Reflex Sets](#) are a useful tool in providing Clinical Decision Support where certain orders are placed in tandem to ensure patient safety.
- [Order Sets](#) can be leveraged to streamline the order entry process for providers, which minimizes the risk of errors of omission.

Documentation

Challenge:

Discrete data fields are not limited to reduce the risk of nonsense data entry.

MEDITECH's Solution:

Streamline the documentation workflow for care providers and ensure that the data entry process is intuitive.

- [PCS Reference Ranges & Normals](#): Input ranges for discrete data display within the data entry screen and color-coded High or Low values will flag users throughout the system.
- Control the ability to toggle between metric and English units during data entry and follow the [Pharmacy Institute for Safe Medication Practices \(ISMP\) Best Practice](#) to measure and express patient height/weight.

Adaptive Technology

Challenge:

Current technology does not optimize workflow, nor is it a proper reflection of current challenges.

MEDITECH's Solution:

Equip providers with timely and appropriate solutions.

- MEDITECH partners with [Intelligent Medical Objects \(IMO\)](#) to lessen confusion when assigning diagnoses by mapping ICD codes to patient-friendly and clinician-friendly terminology. While a provider is selecting clinically relevant terminology, IMO maps select problem qualifiers to the appropriate ICD-10 code in the background.
- Clinicians can maximize efficiency and flexibility in fast-paced hospital environments with such tools as [Chart Viewer](#), [Quick Text](#), and [Provider Typical](#)s.
- The CDC and WHO monitor outbreaks of the 2019 novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) and the disease it causes (COVID-19), as they continue to update guidelines on containment and treatment strategies. MEDITECH's EHR can [support your organization](#) in the screening, early detection, and management of patients potentially infected.

Addressing patient safety doesn't just fall on one patient, one clinician, one healthcare organization, or one EHR. It's the result of on-going teamwork working toward a common goal of being better, stronger, and safer.