

Reduce Cost of Mandatory Flu Program through iPad Technology

OHS has also implemented iPad technology to control the costs of the Atlantic Health System (AHS) Mandatory Flu Vaccine Campaign which covers 15,000 employees. Each year Occupational Medicine Services at hospitals across the nation administer flu vaccine to their employees, medical staff and volunteers. The CDC recommends mandatory flu vaccination for medical personnel in order to prevent the spread of influenza and reduce the risks of complications of the flu to patients, staff and their families. Many hospitals and healthcare facilities are following these CDC recommendations.

In addition to promoting a healthy environment, staff flu vaccination is linked to institutional regulatory requirements with associated potential reimbursement consequences. The National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) requires healthcare facilities to report their vaccination data. Failure to report accurate immunization data can result in a 2% decrease in Medicare reimbursement which can translate to millions of dollars lost revenue.

The implementation of

iPad technology to electronically capture flu vaccination encounters had many benefits. This measure reduced the number of illegibly signed paper consents, lost paperwork and faxes; which in turn improved the accuracy of immunization documentation and compliance statistics. It also decreased the cost of providing this service to all healthcare facility staff by decreasing the administrative data entry and vaccine consent electronic medical record (EMR) scanning time. By having iPad electronic consent and signature signing technology available at flu clinics, the administrative work load and data entry errors were significantly decreased as well.

We were able to purchase seven iPads with the grant money from the Kelly Services Grant. These iPads were used at our 2016 flu clinics. Please note that we received the iPads mid-way through the AHS flu campaign and were not able to train AHS flu champions on the hospital units on iPad usage. Administrative time budgeted in the past for flu vaccine consent on paper

Flu Budget:

\$70,000 for staffing extra RN for flu

\$ 6000.00 for temp for scanning at \$22.79 /hr.

\$ 0 budgeted cost of paper consents AHS print shop does it for free

\$ 2,700.00 budgeted for flu clinic supplies

\$ 0 budgeted for flu vaccine costs, it is budgeted in P í

Administrative time needed to process one flu application and reporting.

1 minute/consent for administrative assistant (AA) time

2 minute per consent for temporary help scanning time

5 minute for AA time to run a flu report for a department manager. It took total of 12hours of AA time to run a one-time AHS department report for all managers.

2016 Total Vaccines consents via iPad 6403

AA Time: 6403 minutes (106.7 hours)

Scanning Time: 12,806 minutes (213.4 hours)

Total AA time saved was 320.1 hours. The average hourly AA rate is \$22.79 with an estimated savings of \$7,295.08

Total of 12 hours of administrative time to run a one-time AHS department report for all managers. The average hourly AA rate is \$22.79 with an estimated savings of \$273.48

By using iPad technology in 2016 at our Mandatory Flu Clinics:

OMS reduced administrative manpower 320.1 hours which translated to a savings of \$7,295.08 in administrative costs for vaccine data.

A Flu dashboard was also established for management staff use which reduced the need for administrative staff to send managers updated flu compliance lists. This translated to a savings of \$273.48 for a single organizational wide report.

Healthcare organizations, including outpatient facilities as well as corporate health facilities, will benefit from the utilization of this mobile data entry process. On a broader scale, this can be useful for local & State Departments of Health during mass community inoculations (i.e., in the event of an infectious disease outbreak). iPad technology was very valuable during the annual flu season vaccination campaign. OMS is investigating the ability to upload additional types of vaccine consents on the iPad. Any Occupational Health Department regardless of industry type could benefit from the use of iPad technology if they want eliminate their administrative and stationery costs.

In conclusion, the use of the iPad has improved data precision and has decreased data collection time by diminishing data entry errors. iPad use also decreases the number of individuals required to conduct tasks. They produce a clean data set that can subsequently be uploaded on a flu dashboard. The return on our iPad investment was over \$4000 this year and will be greater next year. The cost for purchasing iPads was offset by the cost savings realized by reduction of administrative staffing costs (i.e., data entry) -as well as stationery costs.