Building a Business Case for a Semantic Interoperability Platform

Index, integrate and route clinical data in real time for improved efficiencies and better patient care

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MEDxConnect™

Healthcare practices today typically have a heterogeneous mix of IT systems, including multiple EMRs. Though these systems were meant to be designed and implemented to share data, most were designed only to share primarily billing data — not clinical information in context. The majority of these IT systems were not created to share data with each other or with clinicians and physicians in any way that is meaningful to quality healthcare. This lack of information means that clinicians and physicians often don't have the information they need to optimize patient care, and the practice doesn't have the analytics it needs to optimize workflows and task assignments.

In order to survive and be successful in the modern era of healthcare, health practices must streamline processes, optimize resource utilization and continue to improve patient care. The foundation of this model is data sharing through effective interoperability software that can bridge IT systems—regardless of age, make or model—and can share information in concise, actionable formats. But what is true interoperability and how can it help a health practice attain its goals?

True semantic interoperability means that IT systems can share data regardless of the vendor, age or type. It also means that data is sortable and presents in a way that is meaningful for clinicians and physicians. True interoperability means, for example, that a physician in Phoenix can see an entire EEG performed by a clinician in Miami at an entirely different practice, with access to relevant information and history that puts that exam in context. Most EMR systems today would only be able to share a snapshot of that EEG, and the attending physician would have to know it exists to even get that small amount of clinical data.

A clinical data sharing software tool that is vendor, software, and hardware agnostic benefits the entire practice and makes it possible to move to the next level of cost and organizational efficiency, patient care and employee job satisfaction. Top benefits of a truly interoperable solution include:

Better Patient Care

A common complaint from physicians is that the practice has spent thousands on EMR systems but those systems have not enabled better patient care. Meaningful, timely data sharing helps physicians be better care providers. A software solution that provides semantic interoperability also enables clinicians and physicians to give better patient care by giving them visibility into all the relevant clinical data that pertains to their patients. When physicians and clinicians are able to improve patient care, their job satisfaction improves and they're more likely to hit incentive goals — an ability of growing importance in today's administrative models.

Cost Containment and Savings

An agnostic software solution allows you to leverage your existing IT and avoid massive investments in systems that can only work with like systems. With an agnostic system, there's no reason to "rip and replace" what you already have. Instead, you can keep your legacy systems in maintenance mode and use agnostic software as a bridge. This ability helps the practice avoid server sprawl and reduce IT footprint.

"Most EMR systems were designed to only share billing data – not clinical information – and most were designed to only share data with each other."

Actionable Analytics

Though many practices are performing some level of operational analytics, most are taking an ineffective one-size-fits-all approach to all systems. Analytics are useless to the practice if they aren't presented in context and don't form a clear picture of next-steps. Without context, administrators are overwhelmed by random information and either waste time struggling to interpret the onslaught themselves, misinterpret data, or simply ignore it all together. A truly interoperable software solution performs analytics across all systems in the practice and provides the analytics the practice needs to make decisions and improvements going forward.

Implementation Services

Any software implementation that burdens the practice's IT staff to the point it negatively impacts other efforts, employee job satisfaction, patient care, and the business, may do more harm than good. Today's health practice IT staff is already stretched to the breaking point, and finding spare cycles to implement new software is nearly impossible without compromising quality care, employee work-life balance and critical business

efforts. Compressus provides implementation services that take the strain off of the IT department, and helps them define workflows, configure systems and interoperability. Our services can also include monitoring and remote support.

MEDxConnect

Compressus MEDxConnect is a software solution that enables the use of patient information throughout the entire healthcare organization. MEDxConnect leverages user-defined workflows to find and collect relevant data from isolated systems such as EMRs, Vendor Neutral Archives, PACS, HIS and departmental information systems, then presents relevant electronic patient information, clinical data, lab results and medical images in a meaningful way at the point of care. MEDxConnect improves the organization's agility and quickly enables new revenue streams, provides IT enablement for hospital consolidations, and reduces operating costs by improving productivity. MEDxConnect also helps health practices contain costs and protect existing IT investments, facilitate Meaningful Use Stage 2 compliance, and improve stakeholder satisfaction and productivity. For practices seeking maximum flexibility and interoperability, MEDxConnect provides a bridge to emerging strategies to de-couple PACS and other departmental systems.

"True interoperability means a physician in Phoenix can see a video of an entire EEG performed by a clinician in Miami at an entirely different practice."

Conclusion

True semantic interoperability means that IT systems can share data regardless of the vendor, age or type. It also allows clinicians and physicians to sort and view data in a way that helps them to provide better patient care. True interoperability also enables the practice to contain costs by leveraging the IT systems they already have, and by helping administrators find cost efficiencies through meaningful analytics.

MEDxConnect is a semantic interoperability platform that provides contextual interfaces to medical informatics systems and provides the task-specific information to the right clinician at the right time. Compressus' Implementation Services can also help a practice's IT staff implement MEDxConnect and achieve true semantic interoperability without negative impact to employees, patient care and other business-critical efforts.

About Compressus, Inc.

Established in 2000, Compressus, Inc. (www.compressus.com) is a medical software company offering a proven interoperability and workflow platform to the rapidly growing healthcare IT market. Its MEDxConnect software is the first solution that indexes, integrates and routes all relevant patient medical information to the healthcare professional in real time, thus dramatically improving physician efficiency, reducing enterprise costs and increasing patient safety. The solution's workflow flexibility enables users to rapidly accommodate new environments, markets and regulations. The MEDxConnect products address the problems associated with integrating healthcare enterprises plagued by the challenges of workflow, and a lack of connectivity and interoperability between disparate islands of data in all specialties of medicine. The MEDxConnect System is a suite of offerings designed to manage the medical imaging workflow of a healthcare enterprise. It has the power to connect disparate systems and provide automated interoperability to the enterprise and allows an organization with disparate multi-vendor systems to function as one virtual enterprise.

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