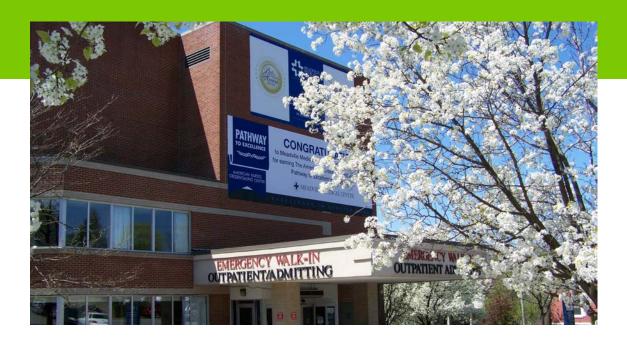**iatricSystems™**

Meadville Medical Center Builds and Deploys Interfaces in Less Than a Day with iatricSystems™ EasyConnect Jaguar Interface Engine

OBJECTIVE: Meadville Medical Center needs to exchange clinical information between its Hospital Information System (HIS) and a variety of ancillary systems, as well as multiple Electronic Medical Record (EMR) systems used by local physician practices. Seamless integration of inbound and outbound electronic data is critical for improving patient care.

SITUATION: Meadville Medical Center is a 217-bed community hospital located in Meadville, Pennsylvania. There is an ongoing requirement for new data feeds between its various healthcare systems. However, the Meadville IT staff wanted an alterative to traditional costly and time-consuming development work whenever an interface was needed.

SOLUTION: Using iatricSystems™ EasyConnect Jaguar interface engine, the IT staff is able to greatly simplify the development and management of HL7 interfaces used to connect its disparate healthcare systems. The time-saving tools allow hospital IT staff to build, test, deploy, and manage advanced interfaces without contracting outside vendors or hiring additional staff.

RESULTS: Currently, the Meadville Medical Center IT staff has built about 25 live interfaces, with plans for dozens more. New interfaces under development will connect their HIS to additional EMR systems used by community physicians. Many other types of interfaces are planned, including ADTs, interfaces for sharing summary of care documents, and bi-directional XML feeds — all built in-house using EasyConnect Jaguar.

> "Using EasyConnect Jaguar, we can build and deploy advanced interfaces in less than a day."
>
> –Howard Minor
> SQL Programmer Analyst
> Meadville Medical Center

Meadville Medical Center is a 217-bed community hospital located in Meadville, Pennsylvania. With more than 1,300 staff, Meadville is Crawford County's largest employer and the hospital of choice for people in the region.

Like other hospitals, patient care at Meadville depends on electronic patient data flowing smoothly between different healthcare systems. In Meadville's case, interfaces need to connect its HIS with other hospital systems as well as the EMR systems used by physicians in private practice. For many hospitals, creating these interfaces would be a challenge. Meadville has found an easy, cost-effective way to build and manage the interfaces it needs using the EasyConnect Jaguar interface engine.

"EasyConnect Jaguar gives us complete control over all elements of our HL7 interfaces," says Howard Minor, SQL Programmer Analyst at Meadville Medical Center. "We're able to create custom interfaces ourselves and manage many, many more interfaces without having to hire extra staff. By owning this process, we don't have to rely on other vendors or consultants, and this saves us a great deal of time and money."

Meadville currently has about 25 live interfaces, with plans for dozens more. Interfaces built by the IT team include feeds to and from its HIS and numerous vendor applications such as Vecna and Varian (for ADT transmissions), Welch Allyn (ADT and ORU results for nursing monitors), Viztek (ORM radiology orders), Nuance (transcribed dictation reports), other ORU radiology reports, lab interfaces, and connections to multiple different physician EMR systems.

Interface Monitoring 24/7/365
EasyConnect Jaguar also makes interfaces easy to manage after they're built. Howard and his team regularly use the color-coded status display and iatricSystems iAlerts that monitor various interface status points 24/7/365. "Just last week we had an issue where memory allocation on a server reached the threshold we had set as a limit. The iAlert allowed us to fix the problem immediately before the client was even aware of it."

What's Next?
Howard has ambitious plans for future interfaces, and with EasyConnect Jaguar he has an interface engine that brings his goals within reach. "We have more physician offices we need to bring on board, which means we'll have a lot more feeds coming in and results going out. We're planning to use the engine to relay our CCDs, we're planning additional ADTs, and eventually we'd like to get to XML bidirectional feeds. EasyConnect Jaguar gives us the ability to create these custom interfaces and transformations in-house, and we're very pleased to have that control."

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