

## CASE STUDY

### Arden Cancer Centre at the University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust rolls out IMPAC's Oncology Information System from Elekta

The Arden Cancer Centre at University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust chose to implement IMPAC's Oncology Information System in 2006 and has successfully rolled out to its radiotherapy and haematology departments.

The software contains active clinical checking functionality from First DataBank Europe (FDBE) to improve patient safety.

## SECONDARY CARE

"Patients at the Arden Cancer Centre rely on clinicians for the best possible care. We have selected this system, designed specifically for the context we work in, to provide the patient information and clinical decision support necessary for us to select the best medicines and treatments for each individual."

**Bill Kelly,**  
Radiographer,  
University Hospitals  
Coventry and  
Warwickshire  
NHS Trust

### Background

The Arden Cancer Centre is a respected cancer treatment centre housed within the new, state of the art Coventry University Hospital, which serves up to 1.3 million people in the Coventry area and is one of the largest healthcare complexes in the UK. The centre had used an Oncology Management system since 1994, but established a requirement for a new system which would improve overall workflow and practice management and enhance care for cancer patients.

After a significant tender process, the centre chose to use IMPAC's Multi-ACCESS system, due to its breadth of functionality and its capability to manage all the required oncology disciplines in one single database, including radiotherapy, chemotherapy, haematology and palliative care. Multi-ACCESS also uses FDBE's clinical decision support, which provides active clinical checking during the prescribing process, vital for supporting the complex protocols and regimens required in this speciality.

### Solution

Implementation of the system began in Spring 2006, with the project team starting roll out across the Radiotherapy Department. 20,000 medical records from the old system were transferred to Multi-ACCESS, and there are now a total of 40,000 patient records on the system.

The new system has vastly improved working practice for its 360 users across the Trust. Clinicians and nurses can now record treatment delivery at the patient's side on laptops, allowing records to be updated straightaway and cutting out paper notes. Users are able to view all the patient's information in one place, including x-rays, blood tests results and current and past medication.

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First DataBank Europe is the UK's leading provider of drug knowledge bases and active clinical decision support.

Through the effective integration of our products into clinical systems, we enable safer prescribing, dispensing and administration.

NHS Connecting for Health has chosen First DataBank Europe to provide drug-related clinical decision support.

### New Functionality

Much work has been done on the complex protocols which are created for chemotherapy regimens. As oncology makes use of many multi-drug protocols, order sets of drugs are built and linked to the clinical checking to ensure that when a protocol is prescribed to a patient each protocol is checked. When protocols are added to a patient's record, it automatically puts a 'pattern of treatment' into the patient schedule.

Patient allergies are recorded on admission and are regularly checked in case new allergies occur during treatment.

In addition, extensive changes to the Trust's anti-emetic processes have been built into the system in order to avoid drug wastage.

The new system includes clinical checking which is vital for enhancing patient safety and essential for verifying complex dosage regimens used within the discipline. The integrated FDBE functionality carries out the following checks within the patient medical record: drug-drug interactions, sensitivity checking and duplicate therapy. If the clinical check identifies a potential problem, a message pops up on screen to alert the clinician. Interactions are given a star rating which highlights the severity of the alert. Prescribers can then make a decision about whether they want to proceed with the treatment.

Bill Kelly, Radiographer, University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust, comments: "Patients at the Arden Cancer Centre rely on clinicians for the best possible care. We have selected this system, designed specifically for the context we work in, to provide the patient information and clinical decision support necessary for us to select the best medicines and treatments for each individual."

### The Future

The centralised, up-to-date record has vastly improved working practice for clinicians working across different sites.

Future plans for the system include widening the usage to other locations within the Cancer Network, as many patients are seen at more than one centre during the course of their treatment. Plans are also being finalised to upgrade from Multi ACCESS to MOSAIQ™, IMPAC's new Oncology Information System from Elekta.