HIGHLY QUALIFIED PHYSICIANS AND MODERN MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES REPRESENT THE TRADITIONAL PILLARS OF HIGH-PERFORMING HOSPITALS. HOWEVER, THESE BY THEMSELVES ARE NO LONGER SUFFICIENT. TO ENSURE RELIABLE DIAGNOSTICS AND SUCCESSFUL TREATMENTS, AN INTELLIGENT INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IS ALSO REQUIRED.

HANDWRITTEN PATIENT REPORTS ARE SLOWLY BECOMING A THING OF THE PAST. TODAY RADIOLOGY IMAGES ARE ASSESSED AND REPORTED ON A DIGITAL WORKSTATION AND ON A COMPUTER SCREEN. MEDICAL DOCUMENTATION, PATIENT INFORMATION, LABORATORY RESULTS OR NURSING DATA ARE RECORDED AND MANAGED ELECTRONICALLY BY USING DIFFERENT IT SOLUTIONS. ALL THIS INVOLVES ENORMOUS AMOUNTS OF DATA. BUT HOW CAN THE DATARecordED IN VARIOUS HOSPITALS IN DIFFERENT IT SYSTEMS BE INTEGRATED?

THIS IS EXACTLY WHERE THE SWISS HOSPITAL SLOTHURNER SPITÄLER (SOH) SETS A NEW BAR – AS THE FIRST HOSPITAL IN THE GERMAN-SPEAKING COUNTRIES. WITH ITS USE OF THE CARADIGM INTELLIGENCE PLATFORM, SOH HAS AN INNOVATIVE PLATFORM WHICH ENABLES THE AGGREGATION OF CLINICAL DATA FIRST AND THEN ALLOWS TO ACCESS THE CLINICAL INFORMATION INDIVIDUALLY. THIS COMPREHENSIVE APPLICATION MEETS SPECIFIC MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DIAGNOSIS AND THERAPY AS WELL AS SUPPORTS STATISTICAL ANALYSES IN ORDER TO OPERATE THE CLINIC ECONOMICALLY.

“A GLOBAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM LIKE THE CARADIGM INTELLIGENCE PLATFORM OFFERS MAJOR BENEFITS TO BOTH PATIENTS AND PHYSICIANS AS IT ENABLES THE DELIVERY OF OPTIMAL CARE SERVICES WITHOUT DELAY AND AT THE SAME TIME HELPS TO MANAGE THE HOSPITAL IN AN ECONOMICALLY RESPONSIBLE MANNER,” EXPLAINS ALEXANDER BRITZ, GENERAL MANAGER AT MICROSOFT HEALTH SOLUTIONS GROUP EUROPE.

BEING ONE OF THE LARGEST CLINICS IN SWITZERLAND, SOH OPENED UP A PROMISING SOLUTION TO THE INDUSTRY’S CURRENT CHALLENGES OF PROVIDING OVERALL INTEGRATED DATA.

WITHIN ITS IT ENVIRONMENT, MEDICAL DATA WAS LOCKED AWAY IN PROPRIETARY SYSTEMS THAT DICTATED THE USAGE OF DATA. IN ADDITION, SOH HAD THE PROBLEM OF PHYSICAL DISTANCE – AS THE ORGANISATION IS SPREAD OVER THE DIFFERENT LOCATIONS OF OLTEN, SLOTHURN, DORNACH, AND GRENCHEM.

A HIGH DEGREE OF TRANSPARENCY AND DIRECT ACCESS TO THE DATA WAS REQUIRED NOT ONLY FOR THE DIFFERENT SPECIALITIES AND DISCIPLINES, BUT ALSO ACROSS ITS FOUR LOCATIONS. WHILST THE PHYSICIANS WERE USING A CLINICAL PORTAL BASED ON MICROSOFT SHAREPOINT IT WAS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO INTEGRATE MEDICAL HISTORY, RADIOLOGY RESULTS, DIAGNOSES AND LABORATORY RESULTS ELECTRONICALLY, AND ALLOW FOR STATISTICAL ANALYSES AND ADVANCED CLINICAL ANALYTICS.

“AMALGA (NOW CARADIGM INTELLIGENCE PLATFORM) MAKES AN END TO THE COSTLY FRAGMENTATION OF THE IT IN THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM. THE VISION OF MAKING THE DATA OF A HEALTH ORGANISATION AVAILABLE IN REAL TIME ACROSS MULTIPLE LOCATIONS AND BEYOND SYSTEM AND FORMAT BOUNDARIES AT LAST BECOMES A REALITY.”

PASCAL WALLISER, MD
FORMER CIO, SLOTHURNER SPITÄLER AG
soH had to find a solution which could automatically extract data from the isolated databases and connect them in a flexible manner. The idea was to implement a user-friendly ‘cockpit’, similar to an aircraft, which provided instantaneous access to all relevant clinical data in an electronic format.

Cockpit Design Provides All Data Directly At Your Fingertips

With the close cooperation of the Microsoft partner AFCA-Informatik, the IT manager at soH, Pascal Walliser (MD), and his team turned a vision into reality. They introduced the Medical Cockpit in a phased manner – a system based on Microsoft technologies such as SharePoint and Silverlight as the user interface and with the intelligence platform as the core data platform. The Intelligence Platform aggregates data from a number of different systems – “Nexus Hospis” (hospital information system), “GE Centricity” (radiology information system), “Datamed WinDMLab” (laboratory information system), and “WiCare|DOC” (electronic patient documentation) – and makes them available to users via the Medical Cockpit.

Thanks to the Caradigm Intelligence Platform, the medical information is immediately aggregated and made available to the hospital users, side-by-side with information from other systems. For example, if a new lab result is added to a patient’s file during a differential diagnosis, it is automatically updated in Amalga updated in the Intelligence Platform and directly

Customer Profile

Solothurner Spitäler AG (soH), situated in the Swiss canton of Solothurn with 260,000 inhabitants – offers complete medical and psychiatric care services across its hospitals in Solothurn, Olten, Dornach and Grenchen. With over 800 beds, soH has a comprehensive performance mandate and is the primary medical responder in the canton.

soH employs about 3,400 people at its various sites and is one of the largest employers in the canton, offering its employees a challenging environment and modern working conditions. With about 350 training positions, the clinic is also the largest clinical training centre.

soH treats approx. 27,000 inpatients and about 128,000 outpatients each year. The average stay of a patient is 6.8 days. soH is a non-profit corporation, with the canton of Solothurn as the sole shareholder.

Figure 1 – Graphical view of the data flow
The Caradigm Intelligence Platform and the Medical Cockpit today effectively support the whole medical team at soH. The cockpit solution offers an easy-to-use and central application making all clinical data accessible in a quick and easy way.

By providing timely and complete documentation accessible to the entire clinic group across different locations, soH can offer patients optimised health care services and streamline its processes. By connecting the Medical Cockpit with the Intelligence Platform, hospitals can save time, relieve employees from routine tasks and reduce potential error sources. The Caradigm Intelligence Platform also enables more efficient workflows and helps improve the quality of treatment and patient care. Medical care providers of soH gain more time for patient care enabling them to concentrate on their core competencies.

For more information visit: www.caradigm.co.uk
Figure 3 – Medical Cockpit showing medical documentation

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