

Careforce Connection

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Children's Launches More Electronic Medical Record Tools

Our shift to a single electronic health records system continued this month with the launch of several more Epic capabilities, including [clinical documentation for Cardiac Services' outpatient areas](#), improved intraoperative documentation for [Surgical Services](#), and a new Web-based link to Epic for physician practice staff and community physicians.

Helping Surgical Services Focus on the Patient

At both Children's at Egleston and Children's at Scottish Rite, the Surgical Services teams are getting used to the new process for documenting patient information.

"The implementation was seamless. The OR staff was already familiar with Epic and we were well prepared because of the training," said Joyce Kime, Operating Room Educator, Children's at Scottish Rite. "Everyone practiced with the training playground tools beforehand and the super users have spent a lot of one-on-one time with our staff to ensure everyone is comfortable with the changes."

Dina Parks, OR Staff Nurse, Children's Scottish Rite, completed several short ENT cases and identified fast ways of navigating the system to achieve complete documentation. "After practicing a few times, you know what you need to document and what you don't, which speeds up the process," she commented.

Doris Engram, Day Surgery Staff Nurse, Children's at Egleston, enjoys having patient information at her fingertips. "Now when a patient's parent asks for me to compare the blood pressure from before and after surgery, I can look it up in Epic. I no longer have to leave the patient's side to retrieve that information," she shared.

Cardiac Services Meets Change Head On

Nurses and physicians in the Cardiac Services' outpatient areas also have adjusted well, even when their case loads have been heavy. In fact, all of their charges have posted correctly since the very first day of their launch.

"The new documentation process is simple and captures everything so quickly," said Tracy Brown, Cardiac Cath Lab Staff Nurse, Children's at Egleston. "I keep thinking I'm missing something, but I'm not. I've been paper charting for 18 years, but I'm starting to get into a routine with the new system."

Taylor Sommers, Cardiac Cath Lab Staff Nurse, Children's at Egleston, likes having all of her patients' information in one place now. "We used to have to complete part of our work on paper and part of it in Epic. It will now be a more seamless interaction with the patient," she said.

Cardiac Services' staff and leadership involvement played a significant role in

Children's Recognizes November Catch Me at My Best Winners

Congratulations to the following employees for winning this month's [Catch Me at My Best](#) drawing for a Children's duffle bag.

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See the Slideshow of Our Nurses at the March of Dimes Nurse of the Year Award Banquet

On Nov. 20, healthcare professionals throughout Georgia gathered at the Cobb Galleria Center for the annual March of Dimes Nurse of the Year award banquet.

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Kudos Children's Employees

Congratulations to several Children's employees who have made remarkable achievements.

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Congrats to Participants of the Health Education Expo

The Health Education Expo recognized Children's staff and physicians for outstanding accomplishments in healthcare education during the month of September.

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New Children's Location Set to Open June 2011

Children's recently received approval from the state for a new facility in Forsyth County. Construction of the new 20,000-square-foot facility will begin Dec. 8 with an anticipated opening in the first week of June 2011.

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the success of their launch according to Leah McKay, Senior Clinical Informatics Specialist, IS&T Business Partnering. "When departments take on this level of ownership for the changes they're about to experience, the implementation is bound to be more successful," she stated.

Connecting with Community Physicians

Another important component of the Nov. 4 launches was replacing EpicWeb, Web-based interface to Epic for community-based physicians, with a new tool called accessCHOA. The upgrade increases patient confidentiality and makes it possible for physicians and physician practice staff to receive electronic notifications about their patients, including their emergency visits, lab and imaging results, and admission status. In addition, the new system eventually will eliminate mass faxing to community physicians.

Overall, feedback has been positive. "Anytime there is a change in technology, it's scary," said Margaret Clifford, R.N., North Fulton Pediatrics. "However, the switch from EpicWeb to accessCHOA has been made easier with the help of the Children's support team."



Janet Starkweather at Snellville Pediatrics agreed. "The transition has been very smooth and all of our questions were answered. It's so convenient to stay on top of our patients at Children's and be able to get the information to our doctors."

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Congrats to Our Hope and Will Winners

Jacquelyn Cooper, Bernice Finch, Kenneth McDowell, Daniel Sandel and Amber Valentino, M.D., have been recognized for exemplifying the Children's values.

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Read the Latest Issue of The Compliance Standard

The Compliance Standard is a quarterly publication highlighting valuable compliance information and updates for Children's staff.

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Submit Entries for Children's Holiday Decorating Contest by Dec. 9

Your department can show its holiday spirit in this year's holiday decorating contest. Judging is Tuesday, Dec. 14, starting at 9 a.m., for two categories: Door decorations and Department decorations.

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View Pictures from Our Veteran's Day Celebration

On Thursday, Nov. 11, Children's honored our veterans at our annual Salute to Our Veterans celebration at The Park.

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Children's Receives Big Voice for Children Award

Voices for Georgia's Children recently named Children's as one of the recipients of the 2010 Big Voice for Children award.

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Read How Erika Weathered the Cold

"But the cold didn't keep people away. It's quite a bizarre contradiction to be simultaneously sweating and freezing, and it seemed to take at least a mile before my legs were moving at a normal pace."

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Note Changes to Strong4Life Health Assessment

On Oct. 25, additional questions were added to the Health Profile. If your health profile was completed prior to the addition of these questions (completion date is displayed in Strong4Life), you will be considered as having completed the Health Profile.

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Congratulations DAISY Award Winners

Rachel Clark and Rhodina Jones have been recognized for their