

Tracking Adverse Drug Events

In an effort to decrease adverse drug events in American hospitals, some 20 auditors are using new technology to assess thousands of patient files across seven different hospitals.

Background:

Adverse drug events (ADEs) occur when therapeutic drugs have harmful effects. According to recent research, approximately 770,000 people are injured or die each year in hospitals from ADEs, which may cost up to \$5.6 million each year per hospital depending on hospital size¹.

In an effort to understand the patterns and occurrences of ADE's, one of America's largest non profit health systems has commissioned Rapid Modeling to develop a solution for auditing and tracking adverse drug interactions in its hospital system.

The Problem:

The Health System needed a solution to effectively collect data from patient files so that their national office could synthesize and collectively analyze the results. In the past, this has been a near impossible task because individual auditors were separately writing their own assessments on paper forms, meaning that the observations were never standardized and could be susceptible to misdiagnosis. Furthermore, the tedious task of re-entering results into a common computer program was extremely time-consuming.

The Solution:

Rapid Modeling equipped their auditors with handheld computers programmed with Laubrass' newest software: UmtAudit™.

Nelson Lee of Rapid Modeling says **“One of the reasons we chose to use this new technology is because it standardizes data collection throughout a large organization.”**

Each of the 20 auditors in the field is assessing thousands of patient files looking for triggers that would point to an adverse drug reaction. “Using UmtAudit, the data collection process is automated, which allows the auditor to collect data directly onto their PDA, meaning that they don't have to do double entries,” says Lee.



By automating the tracking process with UmtAudit™, Hospitals can analyze ADEs more efficiently.

Furthermore, using this new technology minimizes the risk of making false assessments. According to Lee, “you can program UmtAudit to allow you to build criteria for each assessment... by doing this, the auditors are less likely to make a misdiagnosis about an ADE.”

The Result:

New to the market, Laubrass' UmtAudit™ software is already proving to be an effective tool for auditors that need solutions for standardizing their assessments, minimizing assessment errors and alleviating the tedious task of data entry. Information about this new product can be found at www.laubrass.com

¹ *Reducing and Preventing Adverse Drug Events To Decrease Hospital Costs*. Research in Action, Issue 1. AHRQ Publication Number 01-0020, March 2001. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Rockville, MD. <http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/aderia/aderia.htm> *The AHRQ is not affiliated in any way to any of the organizations mentioned in this article.



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