Electronic Medical Records at Jersey Shore Hospital

Overview
The Jersey Shore Hospital is currently in the process of transitioning from paper medical records to electronic medical records. The hospital requested that the current process be analyzed in order to identify any potential issues and allow for a streamlined implementation. The hospital was also interested in learning more about the hardware that would be needed and the quantity of computers that would allow adequate access for doctors and nurses. The project scope was focused on the Emergency Room (ER) and how the ER interacts with the Lab, Radiology, and Central Registration.

Objectives
The objective of this project is to determine the differences, positive or negative, in the workflow, for the Jersey Shore Hospital that may arise when the current paperwork system is switched over to the proposed electronic medical record system, Meditech 6.0. Based on the work flow analysis, recommendations are made regarding the change in the workflow for any of the staff currently using paperwork, the change in the amount of motions used to complete medical forms, the organization of the centralized nursing station, and the specific Meditech hardware necessary to enable a smooth transition from paper files to electronic medical records.

Approach
- The initial site visit allowed the team to meet with the sponsors, learn their needs, identify the project scope, and begin collecting data.
- The team developed a process flow diagram of the current ER patient and paperwork flows.
- The team gathered information about hardware that is compatible with Meditech and created a decision matrix for both all-in-one desktop and tablet computers.
- The team gathered information at Jersey Shore Hospital to create a CAD model of the central nursing station and then determined space savings which occur due to changes in equipment.
- The time and cost savings associated with the elimination of the blue chip process were identified.
- All steps in approach were confirmed with the Jersey Shore Hospital before proceeding further.

Outcomes
- The hospital is recommended to purchase seven Motion C5v clinical tablet computers, three Vita KX all-in-one computers, and accompanying accessories, which have an estimated cost $35,583.74 and will lead to a savings of 36.85% of previously utilized space.
- The hospital should implement the 5S methodology in the Central Nursing Station in the ER and the unit clerk will be the “5S Champion.”
- One doctor and one nurse should be selected to be a “Meditech Champion.” They will be the main points of contact for the rest of the staff and will be the local experts on the Meditech software.
- The blue chip process should be eliminated from the ER. This will save the hospital $432 per year in material costs and 56.91 minutes per day.