

Care without Walls: Integrating Hospitals and Home Care Agencies



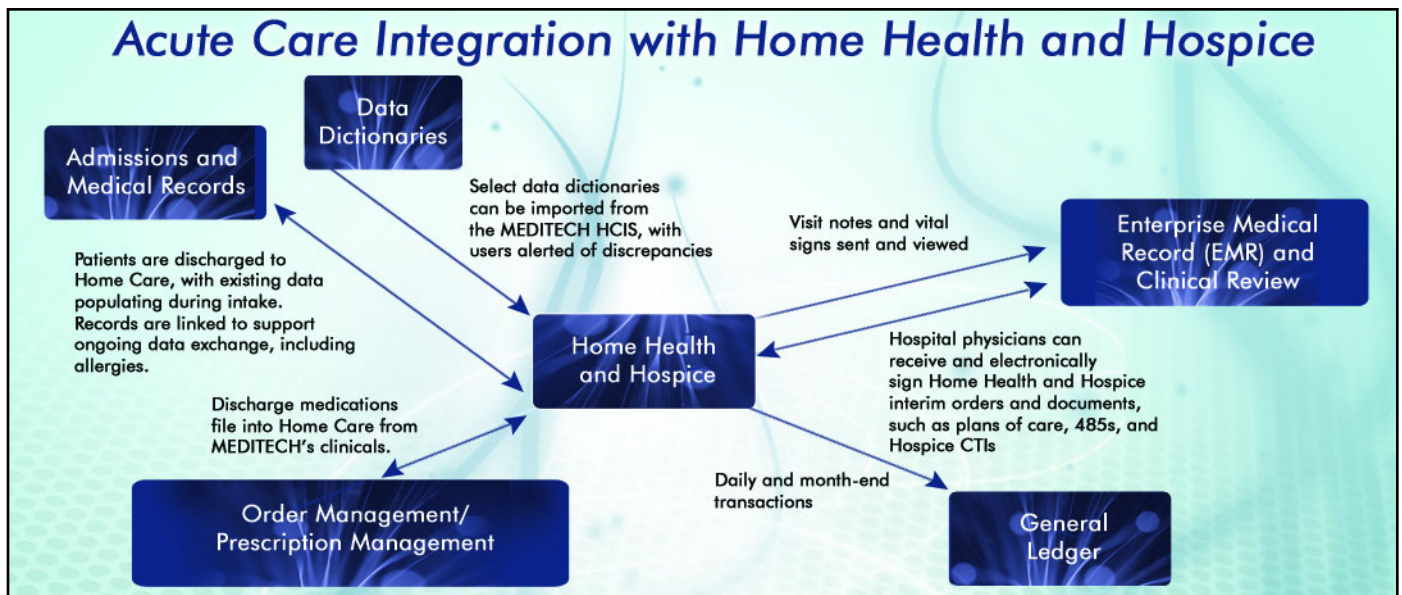
Patient treatment does not always end with hospital discharge, as more and more patients are being referred to home care agencies for ongoing treatment. As such, the ability to incorporate home care information into the patient's electronic record is vital to obtaining a complete picture of a patient's health. MEDITECH's Home Care solution integrates critical patient information across the acute care, home health, and hospice settings, helping care providers better monitor their patients' progress and treat chronic conditions.

For MEDITECH, Home Care is just a natural extension of our HCIS to support the growing industry shift toward community-based care and population health management. Research has shown that the top 20 chronic conditions currently represent approximately 80% of today's health care dollars. By collecting and sharing information on chronic conditions across acute care and home care environments, MEDITECH helps health care organizations better coordinate treatment of chronic conditions, such as diabetes and congestive heart failure. This continuum-wide approach, which we refer to as "Care without Walls," not only promotes better patient health, but also contributes to your organization's financial well being.

Home Health and Hospice Integration

The MEDITECH HCIS exchanges timely patient information between the acute care, home care, and hospice environments. This helps your organization more accurately and efficiently transition patients from one care setting to the next by minimizing redundant data entry. By establishing a link between existing hospital records and home care records, your organization is able to share timely updates between both systems, such as demographic data, allergies, payers, and patient contacts. Likewise, home care staff can also query a patient's medication history, as well as pull forward, evaluate, edit, and accept discharge medications to assist with medication reconciliation. Information captured in Home Health and Hospice is also accessible from MEDITECH's Enterprise Medical Record (EMR) or Clinical Review, enabling clinicians to view home care visit notes and vital signs; verify patient allergies; and sign off on orders and documentation.

The following diagram depicts the integration between MEDITECH's Home Care and Hospice solution and HCIS:



Integrating well@home Telehealth Recordings into the MEDITECH HCIS

MEDITECH's well@home Telehealth solution reduces avoidable hospital readmissions and emergent visits while reducing face-to-face clinical encounters in the home. Information captured in the patient's home is not only made available to home care staff, but to hospital clinicians as well. Whether using MEDITECH's Enterprise Medical Record (EMR) or Clinical Review, clinicians have immediate access to data captured through the well@home Telehealth unit. If a home care patient is later admitted to the hospital, this patient-captured data provides a valuable resource for evaluating trends and making more informed decisions regarding a patient's condition and treatment.

The following diagram depicts the data sent from well@home Telehealth to the home care agency, which is subsequently sent to the MEDITECH EMR or Clinical Review:



As community-based care continues to evolve, MEDITECH is uniquely positioned in our ability to connect providers across care settings, which leads to safer, more seamless care delivery. We will continue to expand our hospital and home care integration to ensure all care providers have immediate access to the information they need to not only monitor their patients' conditions, but to also empower their patients to manage their own symptoms and improve their quality of life.

This is the vision of "Care without Walls."