

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center's (TCCHCC)
Informatics Project Web Site

BACKGROUND

TCC is a not-for-profit long-term care facility in New York City's East Harlem, and is licensed by the New York State Department Of Health. Our skilled nursing facility has 573 beds, and our AIDS unit has 156 beds. We also have other programs like outpatient services for persons who are developmentally disabled, as well as a 22-station dialysis unit.

Our address is 1249 5th Avenue (between 105th and 106th), New York, NY
10029
(212) 360-1000

THE PROJECT

Goal

The current goal of our project is to decrease the burden of long-term care paperwork by computerizing the federally mandated Minimum Data Set (MDS) and the care plans associated with it. This means outfitting our facility's units with computers and software that will allow clinicians to 1) fill out the MDS, and 2) create care plans. It also means interfacing these two types of documentation, so that the MDS automatically drives the creation of care plans, with the help of the computer software. However, clinicians will still need to think about the content of the care plans, and make changes when necessary. We have made a lot of progress on the non-Medicare MDS and care plan front; the final piece is the integration of our MDS software into the Medicare MDS completion process, which requires working closely with our Rehab and Resident Assessment departments.

Results

This will result in less paperwork and more time for clinicians to spend at the bedside, as well as highly accurate and complete information, which is accessible from any in-house terminal, in addition to fewer times entering redundant information. While our current electronic MDS software solution is satisfactory, we rely on Microsoft Access for our care-planning component. We have created a robust database of care-specific care plans that meet the needs of our patients and reduce the excess of care plans SNFs are used to dealing with.

Future

Once the Medicare MDS component is in place, our tentative plan is to move the project from the laboratory floor onto similar geri floors. We will then proceed to integrate TCC's initial admission assessment forms, and our Nursing Order Accountability Record (NOARS) into the complete electronic patient record. After these four modules are complete, we will visit other processes that need to be

computerized, like physician's orders and other daily forms. What we never forget, however, is that a proper, working EHR is only as good as the users that use it. We also need to impress upon our staff the importance of inputting quality, accurate, and complete information into the forms (electronic or manual) we use to collect data on a daily basis. Automation without education will get us nowhere.

THE TEAM

Anthony J. Lechich, M.D.

Dr. Lechich serves as the Medical Director of TCC.

Anna Salem, B.A.

Anna is the administrator of medical affairs at TCC.

Mattie Smith, R.N.

Mattie is the clinical developer on the project.

Darrell B. Cohn, B.A.

Darrell manages the Informatics project (212-360-3697).