ORGANIZATION

Parkview Hospital located in Wheeler, Texas.

OVERVIEW

Automated dispensing cabinets (ADCs)—also known in the health care industry as automated distribution devices or automated dispensing machines—were first introduced in hospitals some 40 years ago, according to the Institute of Safe Medication Practices (ISMP).[1,2] These computerized systems allow hospitals and other facilities to implement a variety of levels of decentralized drug distribution closer to the patient's bedside, from a limited selection of immediate medications to almost all as-needed doses. The ISMP notes that the use of ADCs as the predominant distribution model in the hospital setting has increased from 22% in 2002 to 70% in 2017. Not surprisingly, the centralized manual dose distribution model has continued to decrease. A wide variety of ADCs and usage strategies have been adopted over the past decade, such as anesthesia-specific devices in surgical suites and procedural settings, as well as application in specialty clinics, outpatient areas, and long-term care facilities.

medDispense® L series

Worry Free, Safe, Efficient Medication Management Solutions

Free staff up so they can deliver the best care possible.

The advantages and safety benefits are self-evident: easy access to medications improves efficiency among nursing and pharmacy disciplines, decreases in medication errors during the dispensing phase, and accurate medication tracking and record-keeping to monitor inventory and deter drug diversion. Two of the most significant safety enhancements within the ADC are the use of individually secured compartments and patient profiling systems, ISMP says. In hospitals, locked-lidded pockets are the most popular configuration, and use of the original open matrix drawer system continues to decline.

A profiled ADC interfaces with the pharmacy information system and medication removal is only permitted after the order is verified by a pharmacist. Without this functionality, the nurse may be unaware of potential duplicate therapy, contraindications, unsafe dosing, allergic reactions, and other significant drug information prior to administration according to the ISMP's most recent guidelines on the use of ADCs.

Current ADC solutions can go even further providing additional support to clinicians, including bar code scanning during cabinet restocking, integration of dispensing data into automated medication refilling systems, and approved drug safety alerts and decision support when selecting medications. All of these capabilities ultimately help improve patient safety.

EASE OF USE WITH LIMITED DOWNTIME

Parkview Hospital in El Reno, Oklahoma is a 16-bed inpatient facility with a 5-bed ER. Although they had a reasonably good experience with their previous medication storage solution, they balked at spending the amount quoted by the maker to upgrade the system to a newer Windows operating system. The cost did not include new cabinet which led Chief Financial Officer, Jace Henderson and Chief Nursing Officer, Cecil Gaither to seek out a new solution.

After the TouchPoint Medical sales team demonstrated the medDispense® L series' capabilities onsite, the team opted to go ahead with the installation. "The sales rep did a really good job of getting us ready and letting us know what to expect," says Mr. Gaither. The set up was "pretty seamless with limited downtime," he adds. "The simplicity of the entire machine is a major plus. The nurses were able to adapt to the medDispense® quickly without a long, drawn out training period. It is intuitive to use."

> **With a painless onboarding process—one day of training was all that was needed—and TouchPoint's collaboration with Parkview's IT, the integration of the new ADCs was quite smooth.**

With a painless onboarding process—one day of training was all that was needed—and TouchPoint's collaboration with Parkview's IT, the integration of the new ADCs was quite smooth. Mr. Henderson said that the feedback from the nurses has been overwhelmingly positive, and they were able to work through the early hiccups that are standard as any facility starts using a new platform. Mr. Gaither and Mr. Henderson say the customer service they received from TouchPoint met their expectations.

medDispense® L series

PharmacyCenter™ module allows for easy reporting and stocking.

The facility believes that the medDispense® L series ADCs suit their needs and provide more value for their facility than other more expensive systems. Additionally, the pharmacy technician appreciates the visibility provided by the PharmacyCenter™ feature, allowing for easy reporting and stocking.

SECURE AND EFFICIENT SOLUTION

TouchPoint Medical's medDispense® ADC solution, powered by medLogic, provides flexibility, security and efficiency all on one software platform. With myriad hardware configurations, medDispense® allows for more efficient automation that can meet any facility's clinical workflow.

From the M series ADC with more than 2,000 storage locations to the L series with 324, and everything in between, the medDispense® series has the right fit for any size facility. Available on the various models, are features such as single-dose dispensing, bulk storage, progressive drawer access, pick-to-light guidance technology, steel construction, and single-item control. The medDispense® series has the widest range of interchangeable dispensing hardware.

The key benefits of medDispense® solutions are:

- medGuard™ controlled substance inventory management
- one platform across all hardware
- scalable to expand and flex with the facility's needs
- numerous secure configuration
- antimicrobial protection with Microban®
- HL7 interfacing
- NurSync™ remote medication queuing

Safe and secure dispensing is paramount, and medDispense® series is designed to reduce the risk of medication errors and provide secure storage with proper safeguards. All medications and supplies are stores in a controlled, locked, and credentialed environment with visibility for the pharmacy to control inventory via the PharmacyCenter™ software module. Controlled substances are highly secure with single-dose dispensing via progressive steel drawers and the ability to add an optional witness signature for removal, waste, return, or override. Further, discrepancy tracking notifications protect against diversion and the medGuard™ controlled substance management module provides system-wide visibility and management.

medDispense® powered by medLogic™

Powered by medLogic software, built-in safe guards such as precounts, patient medication profiles, label printing and configurable patient and medication searching. The medGuard™ software means that the restocking process is a closed loop for inventory management of controlled substances.

Nurses and pharmacy staff will appreciate the software modules like NurSync™ and PharmacyCenter™ as they help drive efficiency into the workflow with remote medication queuing, provides inventory visibility and an intuitive user interface.

CONCLUSION

TouchPoint Medical excels at developing customer-driven medication management solutions that deliver security, visibility, and efficiency to support all types of health care facility's workflows. With systems that span stationary as well as mobile automated dispensing systems that can be tailored to whatever the customer needs, TouchPoint Medical is confident we have a solution for you.

References:

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2. Institute for Safe Medication Practices. Guidelines for the Safe Use of Automated Dispensing Cabinets. February 7, 2019. https://www.ismp.org/resources/guidelines-safe-use-automated-dispensing-cabinets. Accessed March 15, 2021.

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