

Five Reasons to Adopt Keane NetSolutions Electronic Medication Management

One of the last barriers to a paperless workflow in Long-Term Care has fallen with the availability of proven software for managing medications such as Keane NetSolutions.

This software offers electronic methods that replace paper processes including trips to the fax machine to order medications, notebooks on medication carts, telephone order forms, and month-end turnover. More than saving trees, adopting electronic medication management can save lives and reduce healthcare costs.

[Studies project 800,000 annual preventable injuries due to medications in Long-Term Care.](#)

Decreasing Opportunities for Error

When studies project 800,000 annual preventable injuries due to medications in Long-Term Care alone, error prevention must be at the top of the list of reasons to adopt electronic medication management. Known as adverse drug events (ADE), their dollar cost is measured in the millions through survey fines, lawsuits, and extra healthcare costs.

Many ADEs can be prevented when facilities use computers instead of paper, starting with order entry and automatic checking of drug interactions.

With the Keane NetSolutions Drug Interactions module, medication orders are checked as they are entered for adverse interactions, including drug-drug and drug-allergy. The Keane NetSolutions system is updated regularly to avoid a common cause of medication errors, inadequate access to current drug reference information.

Errors due to illegible handwriting are eliminated when orders are added to the medical record by choosing from online lists of medications that include strengths, dose, and route of administration.

Once the orders are entered in Keane NetSolutions Physicians Orders software, the risk of handwriting errors is further reduced because there is no need to manually copy MARs or write orders/reorders for faxing.

Electronic medication management doesn't eliminate nursing input, the way it works is similar to household online banking. The software lists possibilities and fills in as much information as it can, but human intervention is needed to decide how much to pay.

Another category of error, missed medications, can be improved by Keane NetSolutions eCharting with eMAR. If the nurse is interrupted during the medication pass, the eMAR "remembers" the stopping point and is ready to resume immediately, unlike paper forms in medication notebooks.

[Long-Term Care providers report that they save from 20 to 30 minutes per medication pass when they use Keane NetSolutions eMAR.](#)

Before moving to the next resident, the eMAR alerts nurses of any medications not delivered.

By presenting unambiguous tools, Keane NetSolutions eMAR can further prevent errors. Its user-interface is simple to read, leaving no doubt about how to proceed with delivering medications and charting administration, vitals, and notes. A photo on the eMAR page is a great tool for resident identification.

Increasing Efficiency

Keane NetSolutions' electronic tools streamline how medications are managed, starting with the first step of entering medication orders in Keane NetSolutions Physician Orders. The software eliminates order forms along with sorting, filing, MARs, resupply reports, month-end MAR turnover, and trips to the fax machine.

Keane NetSolutions ePrescribing is an electronic method for communication between a LTC facility and a pharmacy. As soon as orders are entered in Physician Orders and checked for interactions, they are automatically sent to the pharmacy by electronic message or computer-generated fax – saving trips to the fax machine.

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When supplies run low, medications can be reordered with a click in Keane NetSolutions eMAR. The traditional process would include looking up the resident's pharmacy and how to order from them – by phone, fax or driver pickup.

Using the online banking example, ePrescribing is set up once with specifics on how to pay each payee. After that, all the system needs is direction on when to pay and how much.

The eMAR is an electronic version of the Medication Administration Record (MAR). It is generated fresh for each medication pass and can be sorted to suit the situation: by location, medications, or resident. The paper MAR requires hands-on attention such as handwriting orders, filing the MARs in the notebook, and updating them with changes.

At the end of the month current MARs with any yellow sticky notes must be reconciled for the next month's MAR. Known as month-end turnover, providers using Keane NetSolutions report that eliminating month-end turnover **saves nurses in an average-size facility about eight hours a month.**

Besides savings due to less paperwork, Long-Term Care providers report that they **save from 20 to 30 minutes per medication pass** when they use an Keane NetSolutions eMAR compared to a paper MAR.

Improved Quality of Care

Reducing the risk of errors as discussed above improves the quality of care delivered. Keane NetSolutions builds on that functionality by increasing the speed and accuracy of communication with the pharmacy and throughout the facility.

For example when a change in a resident's condition causes a change in medication, Keane NetSolutions ePrescribing eliminates steps in the order process and the eMAR ensures the revised medication is listed for the next medication pass.

Keane NetSolutions eCharting with eMAR, ePrescribing, Drug Interactions & Patient Education, and Physician Orders are vital tools for an Electronic Medical Record (EMR).

Keane NetSolutions eMAR supports real-time documentation, making vitals and notes entered at the point-of-care accessible immediately to all with authorization. Keane NetSolutions eMAR can date stamp and identify the caregiver for each order delivered.

During the medication pass, eMAR gives nurses quick access at the point-of-care to the EMR for data such as diagnoses lists, allergies, nursing alerts, and code status.

The Keane NetSolutions system assists Quality Assurance activities by using the data collected in eMAR to create an unlimited number of reports such as

how many PRN acetaminophen were delivered in a day, outcomes of PRN medications, residents who received specific medications, and orders administered late.

Better Documentation with Less Work

Data collected at the point-of-service during a med pass automatically becomes part of the EMR with Keane NetSolutions eMAR.

The software can flag certain orders to require charting notes or a vitals check at the time of delivery. Charting may also be required for orders that are late, missed, held, or PRN. Follow-up charting of PRN order delivery is encouraged by reminders and ease of data entry.

Preparing for the Electronic Health Record

Managing medications electronically provides many benefits today in terms of reduced errors, increased efficiency, improved quality of care, and better documentation.

The workflow changes necessary to adopt Keane NetSolutions' Electronic Medication Management today will prepare your organization for the Electronic Health Record with its requirement to exchange electronic health information with other healthcare providers.

Keane Care is part of Keane, a global services firm that optimizes your IT investments by delivering exceptional operation, maintenance, and evolution.