

Strategic IT Systems: The Clinical 5

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About the Author

Lindsey Birnsteel is research editor at E-Health Media. She graduated with distinction from the London School of Economics and Political Science with an MSc in Analysis, Design and Management of Information Systems. She spent her course year researching trends in e-health as well as healthcare information and communication technology issues, with a particular focus on the UK's National Programme for IT. She is a professional member of the British Computer Society, Health Informatics Forum. Originally from the United States, Lindsey graduated magna cum laude with a double BA in computational sciences and communication studies from Hollins University in Virginia.

About E-Health Media or E-Health Insider

E-Health Media Ltd, launched in June 2001, is an electronic B2B publisher focused on technology in the healthcare sector. Its primary publication is E-Health Insider which has successfully grown to become the leading portal for developments in the UK health IT sector, providing the key information source for healthcare providers and their IT partners. Based on this success E-Health Media has since launched E-Health Insider Primary Care, E-Health Jobs and most recently E-Health Europe, along with industry events and research reports.

Executive Summary

The objective of this report was to survey the key players in the UK PAS/EPR market. IT systems were identified that satisfy the Clinical 5 functionality for secondary care as outlined in the Health Informatics Review (July, 2008). The whitepaper was published in response to the growing need for high quality information to effectively manage and deliver NHS services.

It builds on Lord Darzi's Next Stage Review of the NHS by describing how informatics can support the delivery of better, safer care for patients, improve the health service through better research, planning and management, and empower patients to make more informed choices about their health and care.

In particular, it identifies a pressing requirement for secondary care systems that meet the information needs of clinicians. And it goes on to identify the five key elements – termed the 'Clinical 5' – that are needed to “create a ‘tipping point’ in the acceptability and demand for strategic IT systems”.

The Clinical 5 are:

- a patient administration system (PAS) with integration with other systems and sophisticated reporting;
- order communications and diagnostics reporting (including all pathology and radiology tests and tests ordered in primary care);
- discharge letters with coding (discharge summaries, clinic and Accident and Emergency letters);
- scheduling (for beds, tests, theatres and so on);
- e-prescribing (including 'To Take Out' medicines).

The focus on the Clinical 5 represents a significant change in emphasis by the Department of Health, and stems from the lengthy delays in the delivery of integrated electronic patient record (EPR) systems through the National Programme for IT in the NHS (NPFIT).

The lengthy delays in receiving 'strategic' systems from local service providers has meant that some trusts, for a variety of reasons, have a pressing requirement for alternative 'interim' solutions, ranging from departmental systems through to hospital-wide PAS and sophisticated EPRs.

The Informatics Planning 2009-10 document that was issued in November 2008 to support the health service's annual Operating Framework, instructs local health communities to plan to deliver the Clinical 5, using strategic NPFIT solutions where available and appropriate, and alternatives if required. Crucially, its emphasis is on making progress as soon as possible.

This supplier profile report from E-Health Insider Research is one of a series that provides a quick reference for health service providers seeking to assess the options available to them. Each report details the current position and Clinical 5 products offered by individual clinical IT vendors active in the UK market, as of the beginning of 2009.

Sections of each company profile report include:

Company Overview

A description of the company, including a general overview of its products and services.

Supplier History

A timeline of the company's developments, including key milestones.

Market Presence

A brief description of the organisation's presence in the UK market.

Position with the English National Programme for IT in the NHS

An explanation of the company's relationship with the National Programme for IT, including participation in government-supported supplier programmes and contracts awarded.

Position with ASCC

The position of the company in relation to the Additional Supply Capability and Capacity (ASCC) framework contract, which is designed to complement - and where necessary supplement - existing NPfIT and NHS IT contracts.

Key Partnerships

Details of the supplier's key industry partnerships, including partner name and product type, as well as key deployment and integration partnerships.

Human Resources

The names and job titles of key executives and, where relevant, the qualifications and experience in healthcare and healthcare IT of the company's staff.

Financial Position

A table of key financial facts from the past three or four years. The financial details were obtained from either the supplier (as indicated) or from Hoover's. A Dun & Bradstreet rating is also provided, where possible.

Installed Base

A detailed table of significant UK and European PAS/EPR customer installations. Details included are: customer description, product and version, summary of services provided, project dates, scale and contract value as well as evidence of successful delivery and reference sites.

Reference Sites

Information about model implementations, with a downloadable case study when available.

Product Profile

A more detailed profile of the supplier's PAS/EPR product(s), with a timeline of their history, technical architecture and key technology facts. Details included are: an illustration of the product's technical architecture, requirements for client and server operating systems, database and development tools, whether the product is available on a hosted basis and whether it supports mobile access.

NPfIT Alignment

The supplier's compliance with NPfIT accreditation requirements.

Clinical 5 Module Matrix

Maps the main modules of the suppliers' PAS/EPR products against the Clinical 5 categories identified in the Health Informatics Review (July, 2008) and other key modules. Includes details of where the modules are accessible through an alternative means, that is: integrated, interfaced or via a third party application.

Summary

A general overview of the supplier and its key PAS/EPR product(s).

Screen Shots

Screen shots of the product(s) profiled, when supplied by the company.

Disclaimer

Prior to publishing, factual sections of the profile were submitted for review by the organisation profiled for verification. The information gathering and data collection phases of this research took place between October 2008 and January 2009.

¹ Department of Health. Health Informatics Review Report, 10 July 2008.

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