



# Boone County Hospital

## Critical Access Hospital Improves Medication Reconciliation Workflow with Improved SIG Data



### CASE STUDY

## Boone County Hospital

Critical Access Hospital located in central Iowa

Provides inpatient and outpatient services

HIS System: MEDITECH 6.0

Like many hospitals, Boone County Hospital has heavy demands on its resources. On average, Boone, a critical access hospital in central Iowa, sees a daily census of 15-16 patients. Every minute spent prescribing, managing drugs, and on administrative duties is time spent away from providing care to patients. In January 2013, Boone implemented MEDITECH 6.0, adding CPOE the following December, which achieved their goal of supporting medication reconciliation and discharge prescribing.

Still, there were apparent gaps in the process that hampered the workflow. Quantity fields were typically missing, and experienced pharmacy staff had to spend time researching the most useful medication order strings within their facilities and manually add the most appropriate strings. "My small pharmacy department was tasked to the point that we could not enhance the strings that existed with the staff we had," says Sondra Donald, PharmD, Pharmacy Director at Boone.

Boone learned that DrFirst was working with MEDITECH to develop a new lookup process and data subscription for medications called SmartStrings<sup>SM</sup>. With the need to enhance workflow, Boone chose SmartStrings to leverage more meaningful medication order strings and ensure an easily maintained database. SmartStrings allowed their staff to select a medication order string with one click for medication reconciliation and e-prescribing, mitigating the repetitive, manual process they previously employed.

"I was nervous because we had done other vendor implementations within MEDITECH, but I was very pleased with how easy it was to work with DrFirst," said Dr. Donald. "I only had to provide route, unit and frequency mapping, which only took a couple of hours, in order to build the SmartStrings the way they needed to be. We did not have to do any of the scripting, which was a problem we had previously. The programmer was very easy to work with and we had weekly calls to plan and execute the implementation. I appreciate the work that DrFirst is doing with MEDITECH to improve e-prescribing and medication reconciliation. They really understand the processes and how to make them easier."

The implementation of DrFirst's SmartStrings technology made prescription writing easier and faster for Boone's doctors, allowing them to spend more time treating their patients. Having the appropriate doses, quantities, and instructions already in the system makes writing even the most complex prescriptions easier.

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