



CASE STUDY: ADVANCED HEALTH & CARE AND FDB

Advanced Health & Care integrate Multilex to support out-of-hours clinicians.

In 2002 Advance Health & Care identified a need to incorporate clinical decision support into its Adastrav3 system to provide a solution to reduce prescribing errors.

Naturally they approached First Databank (FDBTM) to work collaboratively on a system to ensure that all relevant standards were met, to guarantee compliance with out-of-hours regulations, supporting the move from local GP co-operatives to operational hubs. Adastrav3 aims to complement 'in hours' GP systems and has embraced interoperability to encourage continuity of care.

Adastrav3 chose to use FDB's product, Multilex, because it is the UK's most comprehensive and widely used drug knowledge base, and already integrated into the majority of UK GP clinical systems. When integrated into the Adastrav3 system, Multilex helps to meet the specific clinical decision support requirements that arise within unscheduled care scenarios.

FDB understands that prescribing within the unscheduled and urgent care setting is very different to 'in hours' prescribing. GPs therefore need access to a system which is intuitive and easy to use.

Advanced Health & Care's product offering

Advanced Health and Care software solutions was established in 1994 when their first system, Adastrav3, was developed to manage the large number of calls made to SEADOC's (South East Kent Association of Doctors on Call) out-of-hours GP co-operative. Since then, the product has evolved and continues to meet the needs of healthcare professionals within urgent and unscheduled care, as well as maintaining its leading position in the market place.

They deliver a suite of software solutions including the innovative Adastrav3, the clinical patient management software system utilised by multi-discipline and wide-area hub services now managing out-of-hours and urgent care. Designed to be highly versatile, Adastrav3 facilitates the vast range of community level activities now being tackled by the hubs.

Over 95% of out-of-hours GP services across the UK and The Republic of Ireland, 30% across The Netherlands and over half of all walk-in centres in England use Adastrav3 integration services and 24x7 technology infrastructure solutions.

Benefits of using FDB's information

FDB employs a large team of pharmacists, experienced clinicians, clinical researchers, healthcare informaticists and software developers who maintain the Multilex drug knowledge base content used in vendor products around the globe. The team work to ensure our lead position in product development and innovation. This commitment to providing quality information and service has been recognised by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) through their accreditation of our processes and systems.

Adastrav3's prescribing functionality incorporates many of the features GPs are familiar with in their 'in hours' systems, with FDB's embedded Multilex drug knowledge base providing a range of comprehensive clinical checks.

"We chose Multilex, FDB's drug knowledge base because the database is already used widely and has a reputation for being safe and reliable. FDB works hard with us to provide the functionality we need for a first class system."

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Medical Director, Advanced Health & Care

When a patient presents, the user can access the system to check for an existing patient record. If it is the patient's first visit, the user can run through a set of questions to ascertain the patient's allergies, important medical history and current medication. Multilex decision support functionality will then carry out a series of active clinical checks against the patient's details for drug sensitivities, contraindications, duplicate therapies, precautions and drug interactions. If any risks are detected, a warning message is displayed, alerting the clinician to the potential problem. Multilex is also used to underpin the dispensing, formulary and stock control functions within the system.

Alex Yeates, Advanced Health & Care's Medical Director, says:

"This is a major advance in safety for out-of-hours prescribing. Multilex's stock control functionality built into the system also means that all out-of-hours providers can now comply fully with the guidance issued by the Department of Health on securing proper access to medicines in the out-of-hours period."

One of Aadastra's key successes is interoperability, Aadastra v3 is now compatible with the majority of the UK's GP systems, thereby allowing any episodes recorded in an out-of-hours setting to be easily transferred back to the patient's GP surgery. This is perfectly complemented and supported by FDB's wealth of experience in clinical terminologies and coding. With the advent of different electronic healthcare records in different regions and with Phase 2 of the Electronic Prescription Service seeing the start of a fully electronic, digitally signed prescription to a nominated pharmacy, interoperability is vital for out-of-hours systems.

Technology for the future

With the potential for full access to patient information via a patient's care record, the level of clinical decision support available in an unscheduled care setting will increase. Advanced Health & Care has been actively working with NHS Connecting for Health in England and has recently delivered an integrated solution which will enable easier access to the Summary Care Record (SCR). FDB and Advanced Health & Care have been collaborating to enhance the underlying technology of their solutions in order to support these new developments.

Other recent successes include FDB providing Aadastra with its latest Application Programming Interface (API), built on the Microsoft O.NET framework technology. The integration of this API, which will be rolled out within the next version of Aadastra v3, will enhance functionality and enable improved access to more patient information. The API also provides Aadastra with a better and clinically safer platform for speedier integration of Multilex. The use of native dm+d codes (Dictionary of Medicines and Devices) in this new API means there is not the inherent risk associated with translation tables usually needed for the Electronic Transfer of Prescriptions (ETP) and will allow better compliance with all the national requirements for ETP across the UK.

Combined expertise delivering market-leading solutions

The combined expertise available through the Advanced Health & Care and FDB partnership gives customers reassurance that they are using a reliable and highly-intuitive designed system. The combination of FDB's drug knowledge & powerful healthcare solutions with Advanced Health & Care's innovative approach and reliable and intuitive clinical expertise delivers a patient-centric, innovative and trusted solution to clinicians.

The two companies continue to work together, closely, to develop and deliver innovative and market-leading solutions to the healthcare industry in the UK.

For more information, contact us today at 01392 440 100. Or, visit fdbhealth.co.uk

First Databank (FDB), a subsidiary of Hearst Corporation, is the UK's leading provider of drug knowledge bases and active clinical decision support.

As the company that helped to launch the medication decision support industry, we offer more than three decades of experience in helping transform drug knowledge into actionable, targeted and effective solutions geared to improving patient care, patient safety and outcomes.



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NICE has accredited the process used by First Databank to develop content used in Multilex drug knowledge. More information on accreditation can be found at www.nice.org.uk/accreditation. Accreditation evaluates only the processes used to develop content and excludes recommendations displayed by decision support systems in specific clinical settings as these are dependent on technical algorithms which are outside of the scope of NICE accreditation. Accreditation can be used to inform compliance with ISB 0129 – Clinical Safety Risk Management System – Manufacture of Health Software and ISB 0160 – Clinical Safety Risk Management System – Deployment and Use of Health Software, but cannot be used in isolation to release any product for clinical use.