



## **CASE STUDY: eSCRIPT AND FDB**

### **Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust to increase efficiency and improve patient safety.**

**The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, developed an electronic transcribing system, eSCRIPT, to ensure safer medical practice. The eSCRIPT project not only speeded up processes in the pharmacy, but provided an important step towards electronic prescribing whilst increasing patient safety across the Trust.**

.....

In the absence of a prescribing system, the pharmacy and IT departments started to develop software designed around an electronic patient record, where clinical information could be recorded and which would permit the electronic transfer of medication requests from the ward to the pharmacy. The hospital chose to use the First Databank (FDB<sup>TM</sup>)’s Multilex drug knowledge base within eSCRIPT to improve clinical functionality.

#### **The History**

In 1999, the team started work on eSCRIPT - based on the principle of electronic transcribing by pharmacy staff, rather than electronic prescribing by doctors. The software was designed so that the patient medical record could be set up on patient admission when pharmacy technicians note the patient’s drug history and current medication.

When a doctor later prescribes on the ward, the technician transcribes the drug detail and the order is automatically sent down to the dispensary using wireless LAN technology via a handheld application. The technician’s transcription is clinically approved by the pharmacist to ensure patient safety and security.

When the order is sent down to the pharmacy, the urgency of the order is flagged, allowing the pharmacy to prioritise work more effectively. In addition, pharmacists can access the list of drugs which are outstanding for the dispensary, as well as any drugs waiting to be dispensed. Doctors and nurses can also access patient orders from the ward and check whether urgent orders have been processed.

#### **Working in Partnership with FDB**

When the pilot had been running successfully for some time, the team identified a need to incorporate a drug knowledge base into eSCRIPT. Although the team had added their own list of formulary drugs into the system, a complete drug knowledge base would provide more clinical information and checking which would in turn improve patient safety.

Multilex drug knowledge base, FDB’s world leading product, was selected. Multilex includes comprehensive and coded information on all UK drugs and appliances and allows the team to add patient allergies, sensitivities and conditions to the patient medical record.

.....

“The benefits of using Multilex are clear. The drug data is comprehensive and regularly updated. The format of the data has allowed for an efficient introduction of an intuitive prescribing and transcribing tool.”

#### **PETER MCGINNESS**

**Senior Clinical Pharmacist and Medicines Information Specialist, Royal Shrewsbury Hospital**

.....

In addition, Product Set functionality within Multilex allows a pharmacist to type in the prescribed drug, choose the route, base formulation and dose and eSCRIPT will bring up all associated products. Extra patient safety is assured as interactions, sensitivities, duplicate drug therapy and contraindications are flagged up as warnings and must be acknowledged. Warnings and cautions are displayed in red in the 'clinical warning' box, and complete information on potential interactions, licensed indications, side effects, precautions, warnings and contraindications can be viewed by clicking on the appropriate buttons at the side of the screen.

**The Benefits of working with FDB**

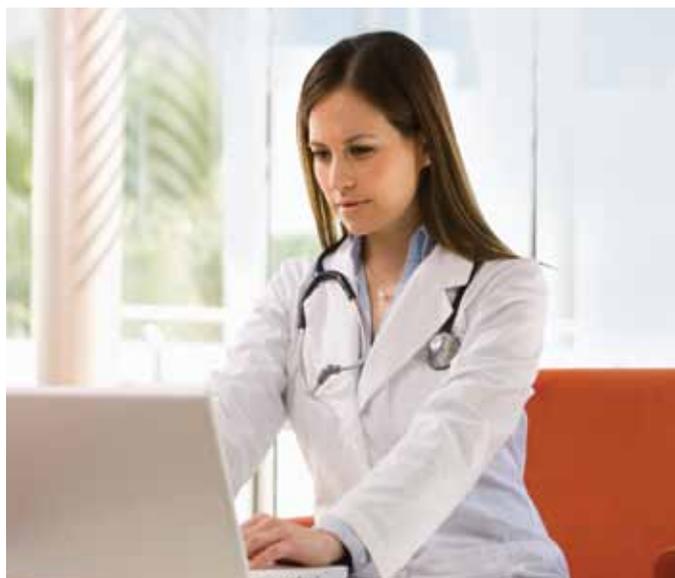
eSCRIPT with Multilex provides numerous benefits which are recognised inside and outside the Trust. Nurses', doctors' and pharmacists' time is used more efficiently, and communication is significantly improved across the whole hospital environment.

The hospital now has the hardware structure and a software package that has given them significant knowledge and practical experience - an interim solution easing the transition to eventual electronic prescribing. Users have found the information contained within the pharmacy system extremely valuable, work in the pharmacy can now be prioritised more effectively, and patients are discharged promptly with all appropriate medicines and with correct drug summaries.

In addition to the clinical checking that takes place, patient safety is enhanced by using the "Clinical Risk" button. Users of the system can add comments in free text in relation to any clinical risks that they identify. This function includes an advice summary for audit purposes and includes a grading scale and Clinical Risk Team notification.

Peter McGinness, Senior Clinical Pharmacist and Medicines Information Specialist, said:

**"The associated clinical decision support available via Multilex relating to interactions, cautions, contraindications and drug sensitivities are of immense value in guiding quality patient specific care and reducing the potential for drug errors."**



**For more information,  
contact Sales today  
at 01392 440 100.  
Or, visit [fdbhealth.co.uk](http://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.



Swallowtail House, Grenadier Road, Exeter Business Park, Exeter EX1 3LH  
Tel +44 (0) 1392 440 100 • Fax +44 (0) 1392 440 192 • [fdbhealth.co.uk](http://fdbhealth.co.uk)  
Other Locations: San Francisco, California • Indianapolis, Indiana • St. Louis, Missouri



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](http://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.