![fdb™ First Databank]

CASE STUDY: UCLH AND FDB

UCLH Pharmacy Department create InForm – a formulary based drug information system.

The University College London Hospitals Foundation Trust (UCLH) is one of the largest and best performing NHS trusts in England. When the hospital's paper-based formulary - containing leading practice-based guides to good prescribing - became too unwieldy and difficult to update, UCLH chose the Multilex electronic drug knowledge base from First Databank (FDB™) to add further functionality and value to the web-based browser.

The resultant system, InForm Online Formulary, now provides valuable access to current drug information, guidelines and protocols, and helps the Trust deliver pharmaceutical care with enhanced patient safety, reduced costs and improved efficiency.

Situation

The seven hospitals belonging to the UCLH Trust, including the Heart Hospital and the University College Hospital, provide specialist and general hospital services for patients locally, regionally and nationally. The hospitals are also important centres for academic research and medical, nursing, midwifery and dental training.

In 1999 UCLH's Pharmacy IT Working Group identified a requirement for easily accessible, comprehensive drug information that could be updated on a more regular basis than their published book. The group faced many common issues - limited budget and resources, a variety of systems and practices already in place and a need for co-operation across the Trust.

Early in the project, the team agreed to work with existing standard software that could ensure an intuitive transition process, encompass minimal training for staff and still meet clinical requirements.

Work started on InForm in 1999 and shortly after, the Pharmacy Department started working with FDB, suppliers of Multilex, the UK's leading drug knowledge base. Multilex was chosen as the basis for their drug information, as it contains the most comprehensive data on drugs and appliances in the UK. Anita Jena-Smol, Pharmacy IT Project Manager at UCLH, said:

"We chose FDB because Multilex is a unique product and we felt that FDB would partner with us and support us in achieving our aims. We haven't been disappointed."

"Inform with Multilex is now the ultimate reference source for UCLH formulary medicines and drug-related clinical guidelines. The introduction of this system has vastly improved medicines management and governance across our hospitals."

ANTHONY GROSSO
Formulary & Medicines Management Pharmacist, UCLH

Usage

The system opens with a Google-like search screen, which allows the user to enter a medicine or clinical keyword to search for drug information and clinical guidelines. The search brings up all matching drugs and related guidelines, protocols and any other pertinent information.

If drug information is required, users can click through to access all information held about the drug on Multilex. This includes extensive information on interactions, side effects, precautions, warnings, contraindications, mandatory instructions, action groups, pack sizes and ingredients.

InForm version 1.0 was launched Trust-wide in 2000 and again (version 2.0) in 2006 and has proved to be an extremely valuable application for clinicians, pharmacists and members of staff throughout the Trust. Over the years the team has piloted InForm within the Trust and worked hard to incorporate user feedback to enhance the system.

InForm is still evolving and recent improvements have included adding hyperlinks from medicine names within clinical guidelines to their appropriate drug monograph page within Multilex and linking to the electronic patient record.

The project team's aim was to make InForm easy and intuitive to use so that little or no training would be necessary, and this has proved to be the case. InForm is increasingly used throughout the Trust, with clinicians suggesting developments to its functionality.

InForm also allows any clinical decisions made by the Use of Medicines Committee (UMC) to be implemented quickly and easily.

The procedure to update the formulary is much more structured and streamlined. New drug additions are discussed at monthly UMC meetings and once approved, they can be uploaded to the formulary almost immediately.

Benefits of working with FDB

Clinicians now have quick and easy access to drug information, as well as Trust-specific protocols and guidelines. Information can be relied upon to be more up to date than before due to FDB's regular electronic updates.

For more information, contact Sales 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.

First Databank

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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.