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HISTORICAL DATABASE CONVERSION: A CASE STUDY

BUSINESS SITUATION

Brunswick Community Hospital in Supply, North Carolina – affiliated with Novant Health – implemented a new healthcare information system (HIS). At the same time, the facility needed continued access to historical patient data in the old MEDITECH system, and was limited by the inability to eliminate the old system or convert. But maintaining the old MEDITECH system was costing the hospital thousands of dollars each month in license/maintenance fees.

THE CHALLENGE

Brunswick Community Hospital wanted to eliminate the costly expense for maintaining the old MEDITECH system, but needed continued access to the information. The challenge was greater than the hospital staff could address. Brunswick Community Hospital decided to seek outside assistance and contacted Inteck, Inc. in November 2007 for help with historical data retrieval.

INTECK'S SOLUTION

Inteck's knowledgeable and experienced consultants analyzed the historical data. After a thorough review, Inteck's consultants coded a number of programs to extract eight years of Brunswick's historical data.

Next, Inteck designed a stand-alone database to house the historical data. Six hospital departments set forth specifications for this database, including laboratory, pharmacy, medical records, radiology, blood bank and quality management. The hospital wanted a user-friendly database that would allow the departments to easily retrieve historical information in the same format to which they were accustomed. Inteck's consultants built a database to address these parameters, and the historical data that was once held in the MEDITECH HIS was completely retrieved and loaded into the new database.

THE RESULT

Inteck successfully created and completed a historical database conversion, allowing six departments to retrieve historical information from a stand-alone PC- or LAN-based server database. The new database provided Brunswick Community Hospital with easy access to historical data and eliminated the cost of maintaining their old MEDITECH HIS, saving the hospital thousands of dollars each month. With this monthly saving, the cost to hire Inteck to complete this historical database conversion paid for itself in just four months.

Inteck's consultants identified and detailed key areas per the schedule, and created a realistic timeline for completion. The project was completed within a planned five-month window.