IBM

Business challenge

To drive top-quality care and research, this cancer center needs fast insight into huge volumes of patient data—a difficult task when working with paper records.

Transformation

With IBM enterprise content management solutions, the institution has digitized decades of patient records, giving clinicians and researchers quick and easy access to the information they need.

Business benefits:

Decades
of patient data can be easily accessed and analyzed for new insights

Drives
potential cancer research breakthroughs

Boosts
productivity, helping clinicians deliver better patient care

Cancer treatment and research center
Leading the fight against cancer with IBM

This cancer treatment and research center is dedicated to driving exceptional patient care, innovative research, and outstanding educational programs.

"With IBM solutions we can get critical patient information into the hands of the people who need it fast."

—Spokesperson
Cancer treatment and research center

Share this

Twitter · LinkedIn · Facebook · Google+

Managing a wealth of medical data

With healthcare data growing at breakneck speed, the deluge of information is threatening to outstrip the ability of medical professionals to keep up. Perhaps nowhere is this more evident than in cancer care and research.

A spokesperson at this cancer treatment and research center elaborates: "One of the key differences between an institution like ours and a normal hospital is that when a patient comes in, we treat them as a whole, and not as a series of isolated maladies. As a result, we keep extensive patient medical records—it was not uncommon for patients to have records that were taller than they were!"

In the past, the institution relied on paper-based patient records. At times this made it difficult for both clinicians and researchers to rapidly and reliably access the information they required.

A spokesperson continues: "There are two focuses within our institution: one is patient care and the other is clinical research. It was quite common for researchers to 'check out' the medical record for a particular patient, which meant that the record was not always readily available to clinical teams when a patient came in, especially if they did so unexpectedly.

"Equally, the sheer volume of paper records that we held meant that it often took considerable time and effort for individuals to access information. The situation was negatively impacting productivity and causing delays."

The cancer treatment and research center sought a more effective way to work with patient information, one that would help doctors deliver prompt diagnosis and treatment, and accelerate the progress of vital research work, potentially allowing scientists to make breakthroughs and identify new treatments.

Digitizing patient records

The institution decided to go digital, and worked to transform its paper-based records into a rich store of electronic patient data. Using IBM FileNet® Content Manager and IBM Content Navigator software, it can provide teams with instant, anytime access to information.

A spokesperson comments: "Now that patients' medical records are digitized, staff no longer have to spend valuable time hunting down paper files, and multiple people can access the same information concurrently. Having access to a secure, central repository of digital content has delivered a great boost to productivity. Our clinicians and researchers can bring up a patient's entire medical record at the touch of a button, which saves them huge amounts of time and effort."

Supporting cancer care and research

Now that medical teams have near-instant insight into each patient and their history of treatment they can more rapidly get the answers they need, supporting better care. And researchers can more readily unlock new insights from the institution's huge volumes of information.

A spokesperson explains: "With IBM enterprise content management solutions we can get critical patient information into the hands of the people who need it—faster than ever before. This supports doctors and nurses in delivering the best quality care. It also helps to accelerate the pace of vital cancer research work, potentially helping scientists to make breakthroughs faster."

Expanding horizons

The move to electronic content has opened up exciting opportunities for new cognitive computing initiatives at the cancer treatment and research center. In the future, the institute will take advantage of IBM Watson™ for Oncology, which combines patient data, clinical expertise and research to support targeted cancer treatment and research.

A spokesperson states: "The potential that Watson for Oncology holds for improving patient care and advancing research is huge. We are setting the stage for cognitive-based cancer treatment and research by bringing our wealth of patient information into IBM Watson. In the future, this will allow our patients and those at treatment centers around the world to benefit from world-class, personalized treatment."

"We are setting the stage for cognitive-based cancer treatment and research by bringing our wealth of patient information into IBM Watson."

Spokesperson, cancer treatment and research center

Solution components

- IBM® Content Navigator
- IBM FileNet® Content Manager

Take the next step

IBM Analytics offers one of the world's deepest and broadest analytics platform, domain and industry solutions that deliver new value to businesses, governments and individuals. For more information about how IBM Analytics helps to transform industries and professions with data, visit ibm.com/analytics. Follow us on Twitter at @IBMAnalytics, on our blog at ibmbigdatahub.com and join the conversation #IBMAnalytics.

Connect with us

Please Recycle

IMC14976-USEN-01