

Thayer County Health Services achieves Stage 6 Recognition

In 2005, the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) Analytics developed an EMR Adoption Model. This model is used as a methodology for evaluating the progress and impact of electronic medical record (EMR) systems in hospitals throughout the country. Their database uses eight stages (0-7) to tracks the progress being made by each hospital is in the adoption process.

On April 13, 2012, HIMSS Analytics announced Thayer County Health Services has achieved Stage 6 on the EMR Adoption Model. As of April 2012, just 6% of the more than 5,300 U.S. hospitals tracked by HIMSS Analytics have reached Stage 6 on their Electronic Medical Record Adoption Model. As of April 2012, there are only 332 US hospitals that have achieved Stage 6 and only 345 in the world.

Stage 6 in HIMSS means a hospital has:

- Made significant executive commitments and investments.
- Appear to have a significant advantage over competitors for patient safety.
- Almost fully automated/paperless medical records for inpatient care.
- Evaluating care delivery and are making significant improvements in this area.
- Made investments and recognize the value of an EMR in improving patient care.
- Have effectively utilized information technology to improve the patient safety environment.
- Are able to provide data to payers, the government, physicians, consumers, and employers, to support electronic health record environments and health information exchanges.

Stage 6 hospitals have achieved significant advancements in their IT capabilities which position them to successfully address many of the current industry transformations, such as meaningful use criteria in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, claims attachments for the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, pay for performance, and government quality reporting programs.

Along the way, the dedicated staff at TCHS worked diligently with one mission in mind - improving patient safety. To that end, electronic medical record was implemented with each application continuously being improved and developed along the way. On several occasions, Thayer County Health Services volunteered as a beta site for applications, to help develop software. This process went far beyond plugging in hardware and uploading new software; it required a dedicated staff working closely with software vendors, to customize the software to meet the specific needs of patients at Thayer County Health Services.

Achieving stage 6 was made possible because every staff member in our facility was dedicated to one mission; creating the safest environment possible for our patients. The staff at TCHS worked long hours and became innovative thinkers as they moving forward in an area few had envisioned before. Until now, we had only dreamed of an environment where technology could be used to reduce errors and now this dream has become a reality.

“HIMSS Analytics congratulates Thayer County Health Services for leading the way toward health IT adoption,” said John Hoyt, FACHE, FHIMSS, Executive Vice President, Organizational Services, for HIMSS. “Stage 6 represents a level of sophistication that only 332 US hospitals have reached to date.”