

Accu-flo from Creative Strategies, Inc.

Located in Mount Holly Springs, Pennsylvania, Alert Pharmacy Services is an institutional pharmacy serving various levels of care, with an emphasis on long-term care and assisted living facilities. Traditionally, our business required an enormous amount of paperwork related to medication orders and administration. To serve our customers most effectively, we needed to increase our efficiency, reduce the potential for human error, and maintain our focus on residents' health. In response to these needs, in May 2007, we adopted Accu-flo, an electronic medication administration record (EMAR) system designed for institutional pharmacies and assisted living, long-term care, and rehab facilities. Accu-flo automates the process of distributing, tracking, and re-ordering medications and treatments to improve accuracy, resident safety and privacy, and record-keeping. Alert has now implemented the system in six of our customers' care facilities and streamlined the way we process pharmaceuticals on a daily basis.

System Features

Accu-flo's touch screen eliminates the need for a keyboard, freeing up useful desktop space on medication carts for nurses and CNAs. The system also utilizes biometric fingerprint identification to log users into the system, providing enhanced security and eliminating the need for ID badge access. Also, Accu-flo requires only one or two wireless Internet access hot spots for an average-size nursing home. In addition, each Accu-flo cart can store medication administration information to back up data during system downtime. The software's eMar, eLog, eControl, and ePrescribe modules automate the med pass, as follows:

- After the nurse or CNA selects a resident's name and picture from the main user interface, an individualized resident screen displays the type of routine medication, treatment, or PRN currently due or available for the resident. The system also notifies staff of due medications with alerts similar to an electronic calendar's meeting reminders. To administer a medication, the nurse or CNA scans the bar code on the medication blister pack. Using a touch screen, the caregiver can enter additional medication administration information and submit refill requests to the pharmacy, instead of sending a faxed refill order.

- eLog maintains an accurate inventory of all drugs received for stor-

age in a medication cart, as well as returned discontinued medications, to help nursing verify inventory quantities upon receipt and help pharmacies and facilities maintain appropriate inventory levels.

- A backup to shift counts, eControl can increase controlled medication security. For example, if all parties account for 12 oxycodone tablets after a shift count, this verification is entered into Accu-flo, validating the quantity in a traceable fashion.

- ePrescribe allows physicians to electronically order new prescriptions from Alert Pharmacy via an Accu-flo cart located at the care facility. We immediately receive electronic notification of the new order, eliminating the need for faxed orders and preventing unnecessary delays in care.

System Benefits

Prior to implementing Accu-flo, we managed an ongoing stream of forms and paperwork related to medication administration, but now our daily operations are simplified. Manual processes for ordering, taking inventory, and delivering forms have been virtually eliminated, as Accu-flo automatically produces forms and reports in real time. In addition, because Accu-flo associates electronic photos with each resident's order, the pharmacy has been able to provide a more accurate medication distribution system. Alert's service quality is also highly improved, as Accu-flo associates a bar code with every pharmaceutical we provide our customers; if a medication is stocked in the wrong place in a med cart, a system alert warns staff of the discrepancy. At Alert Pharmacy, we feel making this technology available to our customers will allow us to remain competitive in an ever-changing environment. ■

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Bryan R. Gobin, RPh, has served as the president and chief executive officer of Alert Pharmacy Services in Mount Holly Springs, Pennsylvania, since 2001. He graduated from Temple University with a degree in pharmacy and began his career at his family's retail pharmacy in 1992. He has worked in long-term care pharmacy since 1994.



The Accu-flo EMAR system was designed for institutional pharmacies and assisted living, long-term care, and rehab facilities.

WHERE TO FIND IT:

► Creative Strategies, Inc. Circle reader service number 25
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