



Maury Regional increases security, efficiency, and user satisfaction with XT cabinets

Customer Profile

Maury Regional Health System is Tennessee's largest medical center located between Nashville and Huntsville, Alabama. It consists of three hospitals, including the flagship hospital Maury Regional Medical Center with 255 licensed beds, as well as multiple ambulatory care clinics and a surgery center.

The Challenge

Soon after unifying the health system on a single Cerner electronic health record (EHR) system, pharmacy leaders were faced with another major technology decision: their automated medication dispensing cabinets had reached the end of their 10-year-plus useful life and needed to be replaced.

Automated dispensing systems are integral to Maury Regional Medical Center's medication-use process. More than 80 percent of patient medications are stored in unit-based cabinets.

Acting swiftly yet methodically, pharmacy leaders convened a multi-disciplinary committee, including nursing, IT, anesthesia, and others, to explore available cabinet options. Among the group's technology must-haves:

- Greater medication storage capacity
- Advanced workflow features for nursing
- Increased security of controlled substances
- Improved controlled substance accountability with new reports
- Integration with Cerner electronic health record (EHR)

The Solution

Following a thorough evaluation, the committee overwhelmingly chose an Omnicell solution set that included XT Automated Medication Dispensing Cabinet System, XT Controlled Substance Dispenser, and XT Controlled Substance Manager.



Maury Regional Medical Center Columbia, TN

Challenge

- End-of-life cabinet technology
- Limited implementation window
- Cabinet storage capacity
- Inefficient controlled substance workflow

Solution

- XT Automated Medication Dispensing Cabinet System
- XT Controlled Substance Dispenser
- XT Controlled Substance Manager

Impact

- Enhanced controlled substance security
- Realized nursing time savings
- Increased pharmacy efficiency
- Positioned for future advancements

The Impact

Despite a challenging time frame – completing the cabinet transition in less than two months – the hospital experienced immediate benefits: improved storage capacity, increased security, and enhanced workflow.

Nurses Embrace Greater Capacity, Security, and Ease of Use

With a larger touchscreen operation, bright Guiding Light technology, and improved cabinet organization, the XT cabinets were quickly adopted by nurses. “I attribute that to our strong nursing education department,” said Health System Administrative Director of Pharmacy Jeff Binkley. “They are embedded in the various areas and serve as an ongoing resource.”

Pharmacy took advantage of the greater medication storage capacity to add more line items, larger items, and – together with improved reporting – to optimize par levels more efficiently. The result is more medications readily available for patients, fewer stockouts, and fewer nursing and pharmacy disruptions.

The improved security and efficiency enabled by the automated Controlled Substance Dispenser benefit both nursing and pharmacy as well. The system stores medications in a secured area inside the cabinet and dispenses specified unit doses into a special drawer for easy nurse access. The process eliminates the need for countbacks and the time spent resolving discrepancies.

“The Controlled Substance Dispenser system and workflow basically shift the time burden off nursing, so nurses have more time for patient care,” explained Michael Barton, Director of Pharmacy at Maury Regional Medical Center.

Controlled Substance Manager improves management of controlled substances throughout the hospital. By integrating with XT cabinets, it provides perpetual inventory management and an automated audit trail.

Pharmacy leaders continue to hone their team’s skills with current systems, and look to leverage the benefits of Omnicell-Cerner EHR interoperability while also extending automation into anesthesia practice areas.

“There are always improvements to be made. We are continuously learning and advancing. And I feel that we are doing it with the system that is best in class.”

“The reporting, data analysis, and support capabilities through OmniCenter provide our pharmacy and IT folks a greater ability to review, manage, and modify the system down to the cabinet level.”

■ **Michael Barton**
Director of Pharmacy

“I’m pleased with the new XT cabinet system. We’re miles ahead in terms of functionality and innovation, our end users are satisfied, and we’re actually spending less money.”

■ **Jeff Binkley**
Administrative Director of Pharmacy

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