

Read how **JAC's EPMA** is supporting
doctors, nurses and pharmacists
across all three hospital sites at
Doncaster & Bassetlaw Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Electronic Prescribing and Beyond

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Kieron Jones, Senior Clinical Pharmacist, Medical Admissions

in association with



Customer needs met

- Trust-wide replacement of paper-based prescribing with a fully electronic system
- The fully integrated EPMA system provides a single seamless medicines management solution across the entire Trust
- Prescribing accuracy and legibility of prescriptions vastly improved
- Access to full patient medication record across the site saves repetition of administrative tasks and improves patient safety
- Fully integrated First DataBank industry-standard clinical decision support alerts users to patient allergies and potential medication errors, reducing drug dispensing & administrative errors

Executive summary

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has successfully implemented JAC's market leading E-Prescribing and Medicines Administration (EPMA) system. The solution has been deployed across all three hospitals within the Trust, providing both patient safety and cost saving benefits.

JAC is the UK's largest provider of acute e-prescribing and integrated pharmacy stock control systems and has over 30 years' experience in the industry.

Its EPMA solution provides inpatient and outpatient prescribing and medicines administration and is fully integrated with the JAC pharmacy system, ensuring that users have access to clinical information regarding prescriptions and administrations from any location within the Trust.

Background

JAC's EPMA system was selected by the project leads at Doncaster Royal Infirmary's Pharmacy Department as the solution that provided the best functionality, coupled with extensive clinical decision support to support prescribers, pharmacists and nurses throughout the medicines process.

EPMA enhances patient safety while reducing the time spent on administrative tasks, and as it is fully integrated with JAC's pharmacy stock control solution, provides a single seamless medicines management solution across the entire Trust.

Doncaster's project team worked closely with JAC to deploy the system on a ward by ward basis, with implementation now complete on all adult wards. The solution is used by thousands of

personnel across Doncaster Royal Infirmary, Montagu Hospital and Bassetlaw Hospital.

It enables hospital staff who require access to a full clinical patient medication record, to use the system wherever they are on site, saving repetition of administrative tasks and improving patient safety.

EPMA - saving time and money

The implementation of JAC's EPMA has been found to save vast amounts of time in a variety of ways, introducing business efficiencies and freeing up time for more important clinical tasks.

Andrew Barker, Clinical Director, Pharmacy and Medicines Management says: *"The system has eliminated a whole layer of bureaucracy for pharmacists at our hospitals. They no longer have to carry out 'prescribing traffic warden' duties, such as chasing for missing signatures or dates on prescriptions. Whereas before they were working at clinical pharmacy model level 1, they are now working at level 2, which has increased efficiencies and means more time can be spent on providing better patient care. Benefits such as these help the Trust work towards the Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention (QIPP) agenda."*

Kieron Jones, Senior Clinical Pharmacist, Medical Admissions, says: *“There are so many benefits of using EPMA. The fact that you can access patient records from anywhere in the hospital means that if there is a problem with a prescription, you don’t have to go back to the ward to resolve it, which saves time and streamlines the way that we work.”*

Time is no longer wasted looking for lost treatment cards - these are no longer required due to the complete patient record within the system. Prescriptions can now be dispensed as soon as they are entered into the system. Before, pharmacists had to wait for the prescriptions to physically arrive at the Dispensary.

“Adherence to the Trust’s formulary is also greatly improved,” adds Kieron. *“A formulary box appears if a prescriber chooses a more expensive brand to the recommended formulary equivalent, requiring the user to justify why they have made this choice, and to reconsider. This is particularly helpful for junior doctors.”*

In addition, there have been benefits to non-prescribing staff who have read-only access, making audits much easier to carry out.

Kieron explains: *“Junior doctors used to really struggle with our treatment protocols, which can be very complex - for example, alcohol detox would require a regularly reducing regime. Now they simply chose the regime from the system, and review which dose version they require. EPMA has really standardised our protocols, and as the system is really intuitive, you can just log on and start using it.”* Andrew

Barker adds: *“The system helps pharmacists monitor antibiotic IVs more closely, for example EPMA facilitates pharmacists to transfer patients to oral antibiotics after 72 hours, to reduce the chance of resistance developing, and bring down costs.”*

Enhancing patient safety

The system incorporates First DataBank’s industry-standard clinical decision support, which alerts users to patient allergies and potential medication errors. As some patients can be on up to 30 drugs, picking out interactions used to be a complex task. Now users are informed of interactions at the point of prescribing and can check a patient’s conflict analysis log at the click of a button.

Says Kieron: *“Prescribing accuracy is vastly improved, as the prescriber must pick an item off the medication list, which means no more illegible prescriptions.”*

“The Previous Meds button is excellent: really cutting down errors and saving time,” explains Kieron. *“It allows users to access a patient’s drug list from a previous episode, review and select it, rather than re-entering all medication. EPMA is really changing the way we do things here – communication between pharmacists is vastly improved, while the time taken for administrative tasks is greatly reduced. In short, EPMA helps us to improve the quality of care we give to patient while freeing up time for other tasks.”*

Analysis carried out by the hospital during the roll out has shown that the transcription of accurate prescriptions rose from 37 per cent to 96 per cent.

Andrew Barker adds: *“Thanks to EPMA, I now have a much better understanding of what my staff are doing in terms of medicines safety.”*

Reaping the rewards

Suzanne Cutler, Electronic Prescribing System Manager, has worked with JAC throughout the implementation and says: *“The solution helps staff across the hospital to improve patient care. Some clinical staff use the system ahead of their ward rounds, in order to be more proactive and patient confidentiality has also increased because treatment cards are no*

longer at the foot of patients' beds. I have found JAC to be very responsive to our needs throughout the years we have worked with them, and the system has evolved to meet our requirements."

Andrew Barker says *"We have a really good relationship with JAC, and they have worked alongside us in developing positive solutions throughout our implementation."*

About JAC's EPMA system

JAC has the largest installed base of Electronic Prescribing and Medicines Administration (EPMA) systems in UK hospitals. These systems improve patient safety by reducing prescribing and administration mistakes that could result in medication errors and adverse drug events.

EPMA also facilitates wider improvements in clinical practice, including: reductions in paperwork and transcriptions; improved audit trails for medication; performance monitoring and intelligence; enhanced reporting capability to review practice, improve future care and deliver management and financial information such as reporting for PbR; greater consistency and continuity of care between primary and secondary care settings; and more effective communication between hospital departments and pharmacies.

The system incorporates the UK's leading drug database, to support safe and effective electronic prescribing through its clinical checking. This allows the system to check for drug-drug interactions, sensitivities, drug doubling and duplicate therapy, therefore reducing the risk of medication errors and increasing patient safety.

Find out how JAC's electronic prescribing solution can deliver measurable benefits to your organisation. Visit www.jac.co.uk or call +44 (0) 1268 416348.