



# Norway Launches Regional Cancer Care

*CMS is a multi-lingual, web-based solution for prescribing, scheduling and managing chemotherapy treatments. The system's extensive functionality focuses on reducing errors, streamlining patient management, optimising efficiency and patient safety.*

Helse Sør-Øst RHF, the South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority, have signed a deal to roll out JAC's Chemotherapy Management System (CMS) across its 17 health Trusts, satellite clinics and seven chemotherapy production pharmacies in order to help improve the quality of cancer care and patient safety across the whole region.

The contract award directly to JAC underpins Helse Sør-Øst RHF's 'Digital Modernisation Initiative – for Improved Patient Safety and Quality of Care'. It also spearheads a new regional shared-services programme for the standardisation and consolidation of technologies with the aim of improving accessibility to healthcare for the 2.8 million population living in the region.

Norway's mountainous landscape and snowy winters make travelling and accessing health services difficult all year round. After world-wide research, JAC's CMS solution was identified by Helse Sør-Øst RHF as offering a unique set of capabilities – including meeting their key requirement of a truly regional solution capable of supporting the delivery of cancer care to patients irrespective of where they reside.

**"This is an important project for South-Eastern Regional Health Authority, and part of our strategy to establish common, standardised regional solutions that will directly improve patient safety and quality of care."**

Cathrine M. Lofthus, CEO at Helse Sør-Øst RHF

By taking a regional approach, Helse Sør-Øst RHF aims to improve the cancer patients' experience by eliminating the need to travel regularly to a main treatment facility for their weekly chemotherapy treatments and for follow up assessments. Their medication can be prepared in any of one of the region's seven pharmacy production units for local delivery. In addition, the regional solution enables multi-disciplinary teams of professionals to remotely monitor the progress of patients' treatment and make adjustments to their medication.



JAC's CMS is one of the few systems that can truly support paperless or paper-light aseptic compounding in the chemotherapy pharmacy. CMS can also be configured for gravimetric production using digital weigh scales and bar coding technology. The oncology pharmacists working within an aseptic unit's isolator cabinet can connect any (approved) digital weigh scales to weigh the product ingredients, rather than measuring them by volume, which further automates the pharmacy workflow, reduces risk and improves safety.

Chief Executive at JAC, Rob Tysall-Blay, noted: "While a lot of traditional chemotherapy electronic prescribing systems may be good for doctors and for nurses, they fall short in managing the patient's safety. The safety-critical compounding and production aspect needs to be closely linked up with prescribing and administering. If these are not all fully aligned and integrated, opportunities are left wide open throughout the patient journey and the hospital work-flow for errors to creep in. CMS closes down all of those potential error-points and makes for a much safer 'closed-loop' system, which can easily be validated to the latest GAMP5 standard – which is the international gold standard for quality and safety."

"We are delighted to welcome Norway to our growing family of JAC Medicine Management users. The CMS contract with Helse Sør-Øst RHF is a strategic new business win and puts our innovative CMS solution squarely onto the map against established competition. We already have over 12 sites using CMS in the Netherlands and Belgium and in the last few months we've won four new contracts to implement CMS at NHS hospitals and oncology treatment centres. This Helse Sør-Øst RHF contract, along with the others recently won, are significant votes of confidence in our product and JAC's track record for successful implementations," Mr Tysall-Blay concluded.

The system is expected to be rolled out for operational use before the end of 2016. JAC will lead the initial implementations across two production units which support three localities before Helse Sør-Øst RHF takes responsibility for deployment throughout the rest of the region with technical support from JAC. The roll out of CMS will form a blueprint for Helse Sør-Øst RHF to follow when rolling out future regional clinical systems as a shared regional service fully integrated to its enterprise-wide electronic patient record/journal (EPR/EPJ) systems.

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