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Virginia Mason Heart Institute Combines Toyota Production Methods with LUMEDX's CardioDoc™ Physician Documentation System to Improve Its EP Lab Reporting Process

OAKLAND, CA –Virginia Mason Medical Center's Heart Institute, in partnership with LUMEDX Corporation, has employed the Virginia Mason Production System (VMPS), a process improvement cycle modeled after the Toyota Motor Corporation quality production system, to design a new reporting process for its EP Lab procedures. The process resulted in the LUMEDX CardioDoc EP system for physician documentation and reporting. CardioDoc EP has contributed to producing timelier yet more comprehensive and accurate reporting procedures, which in turn helps Virginia Mason better serve its patients, streamline workflow for its physicians and clinical staff, and reduce transcription costs.

According to Stephen Von Bargen, Cardiology Systems Administrator, “Adopting Toyota's ‘Lean’ and ‘Just in Time’ production methodologies led Virginia Mason's EP team to reevaluate it’s reporting of procedure results from the labs. We recognized that a lot of time transpired between production and distribution of reports. During a one-week intensive process known as Rapid Process Improvement Workshop, the EP team mapped out the current workflow. With the goal of designing the smoothest possible flow of work that delivered value at every step in the process, the team identified and eliminated all steps that did not contribute to patient care or physician efficiency.

“During this time, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations provided further information as to what additional data elements should be included in the EP lab procedure reports (e.g. procedural pause and conscious sedation evaluation). Because of our Heart Institute’s success in using LUMEDX’s cardiology information systems, we invited them to participate in the Rapid Process Improvement Workshop as well. Through our cooperative efforts we developed a standard work-reporting template that supports accuracy and consistency in reporting of data, as well as data interoperability across multiple systems.

“By identifying system requirements up front, we were able to work with LUMEDX in customizing its CardioDoc physician documentation and reporting solution for the EP environment.”

CardioDoc integrates diagnostics, images, H&P, labs, medications, and procedural details into electronic patient reports, providing a comprehensive, single view of the patient record. Reports can then be completed, signed with an e-signature, and automatically distributed immediately following the case. Because CardioDoc EP emphasizes the rapid flow of collecting,

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documenting, reporting, and distributing data to support quality of patient care, it facilitates data being fed from multiple sources (physicians, nurses, ablaters, and nurse practitioners) into the control room versus one person in the lab entering data exclusively.

CardioDoc EP has resulted in richer and more comprehensive reports as a consequence of receiving input from multiple sources. In addition, event data is available at the end of the procedure in real time, delivering the most current data possible for review. CardioDoc then auto-distributes the report to the floor, the chart, and referring physicians, making it easier to access and act on the data.

“Virginia Mason's program of implementing Toyota's production systems,” explains Von Bargen, “is designed to reduce the time between customer feedback and product production in an effort to design a solution in real time. It also speeds up the implementation process.

“The CardioDoc EP solution was also designed to foster interoperability and support our EMR efforts by creating a data stream that could be read across all hospital enterprise systems. The goal is data that could move freely and be accessed and read where it is needed. In CardioDoc, we found a powerful documentation and reporting solution and we worked closely with LUMEDX to ensure it worked within the EP environment, resulting in better and faster delivery of patient care.”

According to LUMEDX Lead Clinical Product Manager Rhonda Staton, “LUMEDX is committed to partnering with clients to meet their needs. In participating with Virginia Mason in their Rapid Cycle Development, our goal was to work with them to structure our CardioDoc solution so that it would work effectively in the EP environment. We hope to continue working with Virginia Mason and other clients in order to create solutions that bring true value and deliver real business solutions to enhance their operations.”

After CardioDoc EP, Virginia Mason is looking to implement a CardioDoc version for the Cath Lab.

For more information about LUMEDX's CardioDoc physician documentation and reporting solution, e-mail rlasnick@lumedx.com and request a complimentary CardioDoc Information kit. Please include your complete contact information, including postal address. The kit contains detailed solution brochures showing user benefits and workflow, Physician Reporting White Paper: Ensuring Physician Buy-In, Report views with descriptions.

ABOUT LUMEDX

With over 350 heart center clients worldwide, LUMEDX is the market leader in fully integrated cardiovascular information systems and the No. 1 independent integrator of cardiology information solutions. LUMEDX offers the most proven, comprehensive package of clinical information tools, cardiovascular products, and services to help medical institutions enhance quality of patient care, reduce costs, streamline workflow, increase patient volume, and grow revenue. For more information visit www.lumedx.com.