



Case Study

DeWitt Hospital Remotely Installs Azalea's Cloud-based EHR

How the pandemic caused the Arkansas provider to change EHR platforms. Now Azalea has become an invaluable pandemic tool, and is hooked up to the state HIE.

DeWitt Hospital is a critical access hospital in DeWitt, Arkansas. It provides emergency and outpatient services for rural Southeastern Arkansas. The hospital is equipped with a radiology department, a laboratory department, a respiratory department and an emergency room. It also operates a nursing home attached to the hospital, the Ferguson Rural Health Clinic, and the local ambulance and paramedic services.

When Brian Miller joined DeWitt Hospital as CEO in January 2019, the hospital's existing EHR from CPSI was sunsetting and the facility had nine months to find a replacement. Miller and staff knew they needed a system that was light on maintenance, updates and support; was able to adjust to different workflows and care levels; and was supported by a team willing to be a partner to the hospital, rather than just another vendor.

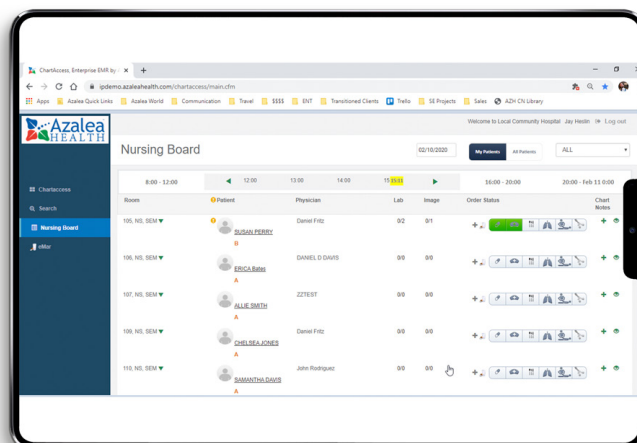
Partnering with Azalea Health

Azalea came in with a cloud-based system that minimized IT spend and lift, reduced the need for training and expensive consulting services, and offered an interoperable approach that enabled DeWitt to connect to the SHARE HIE, while also connecting its facilities, so it could easily share patient data across its own network, Miller explained.



"We were coming from an on-premise system that demanded time and dollars to maintain," Miller said. "The interface was old and workflows were static. The idea of a cloud-based solution that we could quickly integrate into our existing technology ecosystem with very little lift was something totally new for the organization. And it was an approach we very much needed."

"The idea was simple: Azalea would deliver a system that limited the amount of upfront and long-term spend, empowered our hospital staff to customize the solution based on their clinical workflow, and unlocked our data so that we could have a unified view of the patient regardless of the care setting," Miller said.





The Importance of Interoperability

The EHR vendor also played a big role in connecting DeWitt to the SHARE HIE. DeWitt is part of the Arkansas Rural Health Partnership (ARHP), a network of 14 rural hospitals that pools resources to better meet the unique needs of patients in their rural communities. When the pandemic started, Arkansas Blue Cross Blue Shield came to ARHP and provided the funding to connect all the rural hospitals in the partnership to the SHARE program.

For DeWitt, Azalea was instrumental in facilitating its connection to the SHARE HIE. With the vendor's help, DeWitt became one of the first providers in Southern Arkansas to be connected to the SHARE program.

"The SHARE program has led to more informed care transitions between DeWitt and other local community clinic providers," Miller explained. "We use the exchange to share episodic admission/discharge/transfer data, discharge summaries, radiology reports, image narratives, laboratory results, prescribed medications and clinical procedures. Our clinic gets 24-hour daily reports on all our patients, and we get notified in real time when any patient has an ED or inpatient discharge or if they test positive for COVID-19."

Read the entire article [here](#).

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