

GIVING PEDIATRICIANS A BOOST:

Shared Health® Provides Health Technology Tools in Partnership with Pediatric Non-Profit



The Challenge:

Provide Nearly 500 Pediatricians with the Ability to Better Manage Childhood Diseases

The Cumberland Pediatric Foundation (CPF) promotes the health of children in the Middle Tennessee region by improving the quality, increasing the efficiency, and lowering the cost of the delivery of pediatric health care services. CPF has nearly 500 physician members in 25 Tennessee counties and more than 130 practices.

The CPF administration realized that its members needed — and wanted — a better way to monitor and measure pediatric diseases, specifically asthma, in order to provide better care to their patients and reduce emergency room visits. In 2009, Shared Health partnered with CPF's members to provide Shared Health ePrescribe® capabilities, which could then expand into disease registry and monitoring.

The Solution:

Gain Physician Adoption of State-Funded ePrescribe Capabilities and Eventually Add Disease Management

In 2008, the State of Tennessee e-Health Network announced it would provide financial grants to Tennessee-licensed practitioners through its "e-Prescribing Grantee Training Program!" The funds covered computers, equipment, and software related to health information technology (HIT) and Shared Health ePrescribe technology was one of the ways in which Tennessee practitioners could adopt ePrescribing and be part of the grant program.

CPF worked hard with its members to register and support adoption and today has nearly 300 physician users. With an average of 2,000 patients each, CPF's Shared Health users account for more than 500,000 pediatric patients in Tennessee. Because the Shared Health® Clinical Xchange™ platform is web-based, the physicians also had access to the Shared Health Clinical Health Record® (CHR) and features including disease registry, chronic condition tracking, patient care opportunities, performance metrics, and actionable problem lists.

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Jennifer Ditty



The Result:

More Productive Pediatricians who Understand Patients' Health Histories Beyond Their Four Walls

Through Shared Health's technology, in one glance CPF pediatricians can see their patients' medical information and make better, more informed decisions. The ability to see what has occurred since the last patient visit is one of the main reasons CPF physicians are raving.

"The most interesting feedback we have heard from our physicians is how intrigued they are by how much they didn't know about a patient's medical history or recent medical events," said Jennifer Ditty, chief operating officer of Cumberland Pediatric IPA, a partner of CPF. Physicians also reported that they are able to review a patient's full health record before going into the exam room, enabling them to better plan their time, questions, and concerns with the patient and family.

CPF has been told by its members that this has made them more productive and has reduced medical errors. In addition, the ePrescribing feature has been well-embraced as a major asset for one- or two-person physician practices, who could have never afforded the technology on their own and now have the added benefit of clinical decision support tools.

