

A hand pointing upwards with a glowing digital interface overlay. The background is a blurred image of a person's hand pointing upwards, with a glowing digital interface overlay consisting of various rectangular boxes and lines, suggesting a computer screen or a data visualization. The overall tone is professional and technological.

One Patient. One Record.

It's a journey of Epic proportions and it's happening in the Corridor, the state and at the national level.

Epic is a preeminent electronic health information system implemented by some of the largest health systems in the country, and also the vendor recently selected by Mercy Medical Center, Hall-Perrine Cancer Center, and MercyCare Clinics. The University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics already has Epic and is collaborating with Mercy on this initiative.

In simplest terms, the Epic system will provide Mercy's doctors and patients with access to one complete patient record.

Today, patient records are housed at each point of contact (primary care physician, emergency room, specialist, etc.), often resulting in fragmented access to patient information and, ultimately, fragmented patient care. Systems like Epic help replace multiple unrelated systems with one interfaced and streamlined system, resulting in a single comprehensive chart per patient.

Within the Mercy organization, one chart will integrate all of a patient's health information across the system, including the hospital, the Hall-Perrine Cancer Center, Mercy outpatient services and the MercyCare physician offices. Once patient information such as medications, allergies, medical history and insurance information are entered into the chart, the data is updated at every MercyCare encounter and remains part of a single patient record.

Sharing relevant patient data with other healthcare organizations with Epic also is possible, and information from both patient charts will be easily accessible to care providers. So, if a patient undergoing cancer treatment makes an Emergency Room visit, treatment decisions are made based

on that individual's current medical information and coordinated among multiple providers such as the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics and Mercy Medical Center.

The system offers specialized applications for patients receiving treatment in areas such as cancer services. For example, Epic has a safety feature for patients receiving chemotherapy that if the patient's weight shifts or white blood cell counts are out of range, treatment may need to be modified. Epic has an integrated application which automatically provides a pop-up message on the computer screen to alert providers of the lab value or weight change, so modification can be made to the patient's treatment.

Epic also will provide Mercy with the opportunity to connect with other providers to learn new and innovative ways to treat patients. This system will make documentation, task review and time management more effective as well, allowing more time to deliver personalized care to patients. It will offer patients online access to their health record through a web portal, and allow them to conveniently coordinate their healthcare activities such as appointment scheduling, communicating with their care team and managing their healthcare expenses.

In other words, the new Epic technology allows the computer system to manage the necessary data and communications, and lets the clinician manage the patient's care. This effort is just one more example of Hall-Perrine Cancer Center's commitment to providing world-class patient-centered care.