

Panasonic Scanners Increase Health-Care Analytics Data Collection Speed Up To 85%

Company/Industry:

Beacon Health Informatics

Scope:

For New Brunswick, New Jersey-based Beacon Health Informatics and its clients fast, accurate and comprehensive data collection and abstraction from charts and other hard copy medical records is more than highly desirable, it is imperative.

A true information crunching powerhouse, Beacon's Qualworx healthcare tracking and analysis application, which is included in the Joint Commission's list of acceptable systems, is used to aggregate patient data to provide quality of service, risk management, outcomes measurement, and performance improvement reports to hospitals, university medical research departments, managed-care centers and other medical facilities.

Challenges:

"We did some time and motion studies of different methods for moving data between medical charts and other input sources and Qualworx and we found that using AutoData System's SmartMemory™ scanning and OCR technology with Panasonic scanners can decrease the time it takes to collect or abstract data by 85 percent," says Marta Shultz, Beacon's Vice President of Customer Service.

"Proper data aggregation is essential in monitoring internal quality-of-care goals and maintaining records required by accreditation boards," Ms. Shultz added. "As a fairly simple example, consider people admitted to the hospital with symptoms indicating a possible heart attack. With Qualworx, healthcare personnel can instantly call up data timeframe events like how many patients received an aspirin upon arrival. In addition to global data analysis, they can also compare action and timeframe data by department and/or daypart.

Solution:

"We -- and AutoData Systems, for that matter -- recommend Panasonic scanners because they're workhorses and provide a very high-quality image. Sometimes we advise new customers to use scanners instead of inputting data manually and they say 'We've already tried scanners and they just didn't read, we had to scan everything over and over again.' My first response is always 'what scanners were you using?' We've never had any trouble with Panasonics.' "

"We are honored, Beacon Health Informatics and AutoData Systems, world-leaders in such a critical industry as medical quality control, choose to support our scanners," said Jim Preuett, Panasonic Communications Company's East Coast Scanner Business Development Manager. "Our commitment to the health care industry and to providing scanners optimized for that market begins at the 'blank paper' design stage and continues through the testing, manufacturing, sales, deployment and -- most especially -- customer service stage."

Overall User Impression:

Ms. Shultz agrees that Panasonic models like the **KV-S1025C**, **KV-S2046C**, **KV-2048C** have a combination of performance, features and support uniquely suited to keeping pace with the data-intensive world of medical recording keeping.

"In addition to providing turnkey solutions to clients, we also perform service bureau scanning and record analysis for medical research or other health organizations which are doing something like a specialized onetime study and don't want to staff up just to collect and analyze that data," she noted. "We use a Panasonic KV-SS25 for that and it processes 400 single-sided or double-sided, mixed landscape and portrait, pages an hour with rock-solid OCR and validation results. We also use the Panasonic in lieu of a fax machine to get things into the computer and it works seamlessly for that as well."

Ms. Shultz also praises the Panasonic scanners used by Beacon and its clients for their user friendliness and durability.

Impact:

"At most of our locations multiple people with little or no training use the scanners without any problems. They just don't break and when they have needed maintenance or adjustment we and our clients have all been very impressed with Panasonic's service."