GlycemiCare™ User Story

“GlycemiCare has made it a lot easier for our nurses to follow our IV insulin dosing algorithms, and document what they’re doing as they go.”

Jeremy Lee, PharmD, BCPS
Dr. Lee is the District Director of Pharmacy Services at Palomar Health.

"We started with the GlycemiCare IV insulin decision support tool. It’s been up and running for a few months, and the feedback from our nurses has been terrific. It’s standardized our workflow, enabling them to deliver better patient care. And because it’s embedded in the EMR, it eliminates the time that nurses used to spend hand copying data from one system into another--not to mention the transcription errors that inevitably arose in that process.

Before GlycemiCare, our nurses used a home-grown, HTML-based calculator to calculate insulin drip titrations. They had to go outside of the EMR, to an intranet link, to use it. Nothing about their workflow required them to use this calculator, or even to document what they were doing for glycemic control. A recent state audit found that sometimes our nurses didn’t follow our algorithm, and documentation was poor. With GlycemiCare, now it’s a lot easier for them to follow our algorithms, and document what they’re doing as they go.

For patients with diabetic ketoacidosis, the IV fluid composition has to be continuously monitored and adjusted. This process is complicated by handwritten lab orders that are difficult to decipher. The orders contain a lot of “if/then” statements, corresponding to changing lab values and patient conditions. Staying on top of the nuances is challenging. Nurses used to have to study each order carefully, to make sure they understood exactly what to do. Now, we input the orders into GlycemiCare, and GlycemiCare makes it simple for our nurses to know which IV fluids should be running on which patient at any given time.

We were looking for a solution that would not only improve regulatory compliance but also hardwire a better quality of care. Of all the solutions we considered, GlycemiCare offers the highest impact at the lowest price. The IT build was light, the EMR integration is seamless and the roll-out has been smooth."

Palomar Health is California’s largest hospital district, with an 850-square mile area in San Diego county. Palomar Health hospitals are: the 288-bed Palomar Medical Center Escondido, the 319-bed Palomar Medical Center Downtown Escondido and the 107-bed Palomar Medical Center Poway.

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GlycemiCare was designed by practicing physicians and built by hospital IT insiders to make inpatient glycemic care routinely safe, effective and efficient.