

Northeast Georgia Health System Switches to Lexicomp

*Faster access to drug information, improved formulary management among reasons
NGHS entrusts Lexicomp as drug information provider*

Steve Carlson's workday just got easier.

Although just as busy and hard-working as he was yesterday, Carlson, director of pharmacy of Northeast Georgia Health System (NGHS) in Gainesville, Georgia, now has quicker, easier access to comprehensive drug information.

NGHS is now using Lexicomp as their drug information resource, giving Carlson and all NGHS pharmacists, physicians and nurses site-wide, point-of-care access to Lexicomp's trusted drug and clinical content.

Carlson, who has over 25 years of experience in pharmacy management, was among the NGHS clinicians charged with selecting a site-wide drug information solution to replace the health system's existing resource.

NGHS clinicians find answers faster with Lexicomp

Among the top reasons Carlson and his colleagues chose Lexicomp was its intuitive interface and ease of use – which enables clinicians to find answers faster than with other commonly used resources.

"It is critical that we have a site-wide solution that is easy-to-use for all clinicians," said Carlson. "With Lexicomp, it takes the least amount of clicks to get to the answer, so clinicians find answers faster."

Selecting a drug information database that enabled clinicians to find answers faster at the point-of-care also proved vital to NGHS cardiology clinical coordinator and staff educator Jennifer Mashburn.

"Lexicomp will help us save a great deal of money over the next three years. It will also help our clinicians save time when looking up formulary information and prescribing medications, and ultimately we believe it will help us improve the quality of care we provide patients."

– Steve Carlson
Director of Pharmacy
Northeast Georgia Health System

"Lexicomp speeds up our workflow and enables us to find the information faster," said Mashburn. "If a nurse has to stop what she is doing to call the pharmacy to get an answer to a clinical question, she wastes 15 minutes in her day. With Lexicomp all our nurses have the information they need readily available. That is so important because time is of the essence."

Mashburn, a registered nurse with more than 17 years of experience in healthcare, is part of a team of approximately 160 nurses that initially trialed Lexicomp in NGHS's 78-bed cardiology unit.

For the past six years, NGHS has been rated the No. 1 hospital in cardiac care according to independent healthcare ratings organization HealthGrades®. According to Mashburn, this is one reason it was crucial that the nurses in her unit played an integral role in selecting the health system's new drug information database.

"In our cardiac unit we use the most medications so we were chosen as the nursing trial unit for NGHS," said Mashburn. "Lexicomp tells you what you need to know right now and it is so easy-to-use so naturally the nurses in my unit went straight to Lexicomp for their drug information."

NGHS makes seamless transition to Lexicomp

Despite having used their previous drug information database for over 10 years, NGHS pharmacists, physicians and nurses have made a seamless transition to Lexicomp.

"When we went live the transition was outstanding," said Carlson. "There were very few questions and we made an excellent conversion."

Mashburn added, "Lexicomp's customer support team sent us quick reference guides to hand out to our clinicians, but so far we haven't needed them. The transition has been very smooth."

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Lexicomp's patient education handouts help NGHS clinicians improve patient safety

NGHS clinicians have come to rely on Lexicomp's user-friendly patient education materials to improve care and enhance patient safety. Written in an easy-to-read format, Lexicomp's patient education handouts enable NGHS clinicians to provide patients specific, in-depth information about their condition, care and overall health.

"We evaluated Lexicomp's patient education handouts, and our nurses absolutely loved that they are available in 19 languages and are extremely easy-to-read for the patient," said Carlson. "Nurses can look up information on medications, conditions and procedures, and even diseases – this is critical information for our patients."

Mashburn added, "The patient education materials provided by Lexicomp are reader-friendly and easy-to-understand – and this is key for our patients as it helps them better understand information about their medications and overall care."

Designed to enhance patients' understanding of their conditions and care instructions, Lexicomp's patient education handouts empower patients with knowledge that helps them feel more comfortable with their treatment options.

"When we are discharging patients, it is very important they get accurate, in-depth information about their medications," said Mashburn. "Lexicomp's patient education materials are consistent and the patient likes having this information. It is a huge benefit for patient safety."

Lexicomp FORMULINKSM provides NGHS clinicians streamlined access to formulary information

As part of the process to select a new drug information resource, NGHS clinicians carefully evaluated the ease-of-use and accessibility of Lexicomp's formulary management service. It was important the database they chose enabled prescribing clinicians to easily look up information on NGHS's on-formulary medications.

"Now all our pharmacists, physicians and nurses can look on our intranet page and with one click know whether or not a medication falls on the formulary," said Carlson.

Lexicomp FORMULINK (see box), Lexicomp's electronic formulary service, gives all NGHS clinicians quick access to their health system's formulary, policies and procedures, and therapeutic guidelines – all within Lexicomp Online. Additionally, NGHS formulary managers can manage and publish their formulary with Lexicomp's content management editing tool. This ensures clinicians have up-to-date information on formulary information when prescribing medications.

For Carlson, this means cost savings for NGHS. "Lexicomp will help us save a great deal of money over the next three years," said Carlson. "It will also help our clinicians save time when looking up formulary information and prescribing medications, and ultimately we believe it will help us improve the quality of care we provide patients."

Lexicomp FORMULINK

Lexicomp's formulary service allows hospitals and health systems to integrate their institution's formulary, policies and procedures, and therapeutic guidelines with Lexicomp's clinical information.

Benefits:

- Clinicians save time with one-click access to hospital-specific formulary information
- Available on the latest Smartphones/PDAs
- Integrates with Lexicomp's in-depth drug information
- Allows formulary managers to easily update, manage and publish their hospital's formulary
- And more!

For more information, go to www.lexi.com/formulary

About Northeast Georgia Health System

Northeast Georgia Health System (NGHS) is a not-for-profit community health system dedicated to improving the health and quality of life of the people of Northeast Georgia. Through the services of a medical staff of more than 500 physicians, the residents of Northeast Georgia enjoy access to many of the state's finest and most comprehensive medical services.

About Lexicomp

Lexicomp is a leading provider of drug data and drug reference solutions for the healthcare industry. Pharmacists, physicians, nurses and dentists worldwide depend on Lexicomp's comprehensive, point-of-care information to enhance medication safety, improve patient outcomes and increase efficiency. Lexicomp's trusted drug information is accessible online, on the latest Smartphone/PDA devices and through integration with health information systems.