

## Welch Allyn Connex<sup>®</sup> Electronic Vitals Documentation real-world workflow examples

Connex VM software easily adapts to your current vital signs documentation process. Connex helps streamline patient care by eliminating manual documentation and automatically sending the data to an electronic medical record (EMR) — helping your staff become more productive. No vital signs solution offers more workflow options than Connex VM software, so you can choose the one that's right for you and your current IT infrastructure.

Welch Allyn Connex VM software is a smart choice today and into the future. No matter where you are with EMR adoption, Connex VM software can improve your vital signs capture process as you move toward complete electronic documentation. And if you already use an EMR, Connex integrates into your existing system.

### 1. Wireless

The wireless workflow lets sites transmit vitals wirelessly anytime, anywhere, without a computer—fast and easy to use. Because it's wireless, vital signs get documented more quickly and with few steps by your busy clinicians.

Sites like **Meadville Medical Center**<sup>i</sup> in Meadville PA find it allows physicians to view vital signs data four to eight hours sooner in their MEDITECH MAGIC EMR system. Clinicians here use Welch Allyn Spot Vital Signs<sup>®</sup> LXi devices to capture patient vital signs and then wirelessly send the data to the EMR, giving hospital staff on-demand access to accurate and timely patient assessment.

**Trinity Medical Center**<sup>ii</sup> in Steubenville OH also uses the Welch Allyn Connex system to automatically transfer patient vital signs to their MEDITECH MAGIC system. Clinicians in the hospital's newly opened state-of-the-art med/surg units use Welch Allyn Spot Vital Signs LXi devices to capture patient vital signs and then wirelessly send the data to the EMR. They save about 1,400 hours per year on just two floors on a tedious though necessary task—and can instead spend more time with their patients.

**Middlesex Hospital** of Middletown CT uses wireless Spot LXi devices to send data to their Cerner system. They are currently expanding their system to include the new Connex Vital Signs Monitor 6000 Series devices, allowing them to completely document the vitals at the bedside.

### 2. Batch upload

The batch upload process lets users quickly review and import vitals



to any networked computer or Ethernet port when wireless is not an option. Here vital signs are stored in the device memory until data is uploaded to a PC or the network at the end of vital signs rounding. The Connex Vital Signs Monitor and Spot LXi devices easily store a full rounds data, as well as allowing users to identify patient and clinician via barcode scanner and document manual parameters as well.

**Erie County Medical Center**<sup>iii</sup> (ECMC), 550-bed regional center in Buffalo NY, uses the Connex Vitals Management System to automatically transfer patient vital signs captured at the point of care to the MEDITECH Client Server EMR. By eliminating manual transcription, Connex has dramatically reduced the time required by ECMC staff to acquire and document patient vitals data, enabling them to spend more time with patients at the bedside. Moreover, the direct transfer of vitals data from Welch Allyn Spot Vital Signs LXi devices to the EMR has virtually eliminated opportunities for errors in patients' vitals data, giving clinicians access to near real-time assessments in the EMR anytime, anywhere.

### ***3. One per bed***

More and more hospitals are realizing the many benefits of dedicating vital signs to the patient bedside. First, it's the ultimate in infection prevention, since vital signs devices no longer move room to room. It provides nursing much improved efficiency, by providing instant access to equipment at the bedside. The device cleaning process can be simplified as part of a routine housecleaning activity at the end of the patient stay. And since devices are securely mounted out of the way, wear and tear on devices is reduced – meaning fewer repairs and longer device life. And with the ability of sending data via a wide range of modalities - Ethernet, wireless, or computer – a one-per-bed configuration has never been easier.

**St Joseph's Hospital** in Syracuse NY uses the new Connex Vital Signs Monitor to send data from the bedside on their med/surg floors to McKesson HED. Through a scripted interface, they send data to their 7.8 interface and will move to the Welch Allyn interface in McKesson's 10.3 version when they upgrade. They chose the wireless option for their one-per-bed option, eliminating the need to run cable to their bedside. Their nurses showed a dramatic improvement of efficiency and error reduction in their study **Vital Time Savings: Evaluating the Use of an Automated Vital Signs Documentation System on a Medical/Surgical Unit**<sup>iv</sup>, published in the Fall 2010 Journal of Healthcare Management.

**Southeast Alabama Medical Center** in Dothan AL also purchased the Connex Vital Signs Monitor device for a house-wide implementation. They also use McKesson HED – moving to the 10.3 revision later in 2011.

### ***4. Mobile computer***

The mobile computer workflow allows hospitals that are already using their computers at the bedside. It allows complete vital signs documentation at the bedside with the widest range of Welch Allyn devices. Here nurses capture vitals with devices mounted on mobile computers. The PC's user interface allows them to document fully and highlights abnormal readings through alerts. And users can initiate readings from either the device or the Connex screen.

**Rice Memorial Hospital** in Willmar MN uses Vital Signs Monitor 300 Series devices on their mobile carts – integrating vital signs capture with their complete bedside documentation into their Quadramed EMR.

## 5. Monitoring

Welch Allyn's monitoring devices provide traditional monitoring functions at the bedside with automated readings and monitoring functions. With connectivity to nurse call systems, alarms can be relayed to the nursing station and to third-party alarm management systems. And at the end of the monitoring episode, full documentation of the proper care can be uploaded to the EMR (through a range of options from wireless, Ethernet, or computer connectivity) ensuring access to historical readings, as well as values that alarmed.

**Rice Memorial Hospital** also uses their installed-base of Welch Allyn Vital Signs Monitor (VSM) 300 Series devices for dedicated patient monitoring. The VSM allows alarms to be set for each of the parameters (blood pressure, heart rate, blood oxygen) allowing clinicians to track patient status during procedures such as transfusions or post-operatively. At the end of the monitoring episode, the data is quickly uploaded to a PC, allowing complete documentation of proper patient care into the EMR.

## 6. Triage

In the triage scenario, all Welch Allyn vital signs devices can be connected to PC to allow vital signs capture in the ED or other areas. And like the mobile workflow options, the triage mode allows complete documentation of vital signs, including modifiers like body position, respiration rate, and pain level, as well as standard or patient-specific alerts of abnormal readings.

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<sup>i</sup> [http://www.welchallyn.com/documents/Patient%20Monitoring/Vital%20Signs%20Capture/MeadvilleCaseStudy\\_ConnexVM-SpotLxi.pdf](http://www.welchallyn.com/documents/Patient%20Monitoring/Vital%20Signs%20Capture/MeadvilleCaseStudy_ConnexVM-SpotLxi.pdf)

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[http://www.welchallyn.com/documents/Patient%20Monitoring/Vital%20Signs%20Capture/Connex%20Data%20Management%20System/WA\\_163\\_Triality\\_Case\\_Study\\_Final\\_11-18-09.pdf](http://www.welchallyn.com/documents/Patient%20Monitoring/Vital%20Signs%20Capture/Connex%20Data%20Management%20System/WA_163_Triality_Case_Study_Final_11-18-09.pdf)

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[http://www.welchallyn.com/documents/Patient%20Monitoring/Vital%20Signs%20Capture/Connex%20Data%20Management%20System/MC6105\\_Connex\\_ECMC\\_Case\\_Study.pdf](http://www.welchallyn.com/documents/Patient%20Monitoring/Vital%20Signs%20Capture/Connex%20Data%20Management%20System/MC6105_Connex_ECMC_Case_Study.pdf)

<sup>iv</sup> [www.jhimdigital.org/jhim/fall2010#pg1](http://www.jhimdigital.org/jhim/fall2010#pg1)