

# Dragon Medical

**St. Ann's Hospital** Uses Dragon® Medical to Virtually Eliminate Transcription, Saving Over \$500,000 in the First Year Alone.

**In 1886 Mother M. Angela and Sister M. Rufina Dunn, of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross of Notre Dame, Indiana, turned a four-story red brick building with two wards, eighteen private rooms, an operating room, and an amphitheater into Hawkes Hospital of Mount Carmel for women. Over the next one hundred years the organization continued to grow and opened its doors to male patients. In 1984, the Mount Carmel Community Service Corporation was formed to facilitate healthcare programs in central Ohio for outreach, hospice, wellness and home care.**

## Promoting Excellence

By 2000 Mount Carmel had joined Trinity Health, the third largest Catholic healthcare system in the United States. Mount Carmel's trustees believe it's not enough to simply "care" for patients. The organization's values — Compassion, Acceptance, Respect, and Empathy guide the entire staff to promote excellence and compassion in care of the body, mind and spirit, as well as the health education of the entire community.

## Electronic Health Records Initiative Complements Hospital Expansion

Mount Carmel St. Ann's, near Columbus Ohio, is part of Trinity Health. The facility contains 230 beds providing general medicine, surgical care, an innovative maternity program, state-of-the-art cancer center and outstanding emergency services. In 2000, St. Ann's initiated a major construction project to expand its emergency department, intensive care unit, maternity services and outpatient diagnostics. As an adjunct to the construction project, an information services upgrade was also planned. The original IT mandates were an operational cost savings by switching from paper-based medical records to electronic health records and a simultaneous phase-out of transcription. The potential cost savings were tremendous.

## Highlights

- Dragon Medical deployed with A4's HEALTHMATICS ED EMR
- 30 physicians dictate directly into EHR
- Obtained ROI in under one month
- Annual transcription cost savings of \$500,000
- Emergency department has reduced reliance on manual transcription services by 97%



*“Dragon Medical has helped us lower our costs by eliminating the need for manual transcription, and also greatly reduced the number of errors in our patients’ medical records. All of this translates into improved care for our number one priority — individual patients.”*

## **EHR Deployed with Dragon Medical – Valuable Combination**

Dr. Loren Leidheiser, Director of the Department of Emergency Medicine explains, “We had no process for digitizing patient encounters. Our electronic health records were transcribed using traditional dictation at a cost of more than \$500,000 per year. One of my emergency medicine colleagues and I knew we could save a significant amount of money by going all electronic. We both played a leadership role in the evaluation and selection of our EHR and speech recognition system.”

A fully integrated and accurate speech recognition solution was an absolute necessity. St. Ann’s decided upon A4’s HEALTHMATICS ED Tracking Board, Physician and Nurse Documentation, Triage, and Interfaces. For maximum accessibility, the hospital chose to make the system available with Dragon Medical speech recognition via thin client devices on rolling carts mounted with wireless PCs and portable handheld tablets. Adds Leidheiser, “Dragon Medical’s accuracy was incredible! I estimate that mine was probably more than 98%. In addition, training the program was simple and intuitive.”

## **Rapid and Substantial Results with Dragon Medical**

Prior to deploying Dragon Medical, St. Ann’s contracted with various transcription service organizations to transcribe their dictations, which meant not only higher costs, but a longer turnaround time for patient records — typically 24 to 48 hours — and, alarmingly, a greater frequency of medical record errors. The emergency department’s initial goal was to use a dictation

interface as part of their HEALTHMATICS ED system, dictating approximately 20% of all charts, resulting in an 80% transcription cost savings in the first year of implementation.

Today, healthcare professionals in St. Ann’s emergency department rely on Dragon Medical to quickly create electronic health records, patient notes, reports and letters in real-time simply by dictating directly into their PCs. The software has allowed the staff to increase their efficiency, virtually eliminate the need for transcription services and dramatically reduce medical record errors.

According to Leidheiser, “Using Dragon Medical from Nuance has really improved the way we work in the Emergency Department. We offer Dragon Medical to all our physicians and physicians’ assistants, approximately 30 people. The staff is now able to dictate notes using a variety of input methods: PC, tablet, and digital speech recorder, making it even easier to get patient information into our EHR system — increasing productivity and efficiency overall. Dragon Medical has helped us lower our costs by eliminating the need for manual transcription, and also greatly reduced the number of errors in our patients’ medical records. All of this translates into improved care for our number one priority — individual patients.”

## **Dragon Medical Greatly Enhances Productivity**

Dragon Medical has a built-in understanding of more than 300,000 words, and comes with 14 pre-made specialty vocab-

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ularies, including General Medicine, Pathology, Radiology, Cardiology and Surgery disciplines. Healthcare organizations like St. Ann’s can easily create fully customized vocabularies and macros to further speed up the EHR creation process. Adds Leidheiser, “Personally I utilize the macro function which allows me to compose templates for frequently used letters and memos saving an enormous amount of time. I use a handheld digital recorder to document minutes of meetings and e-mails on the go so I can do my own administrative work without a secretary.”

### **The Future with Dragon Medical is Bright**

Since implementing Dragon Medical, St. Ann’s emergency department has reduced their reliance on manual transcription services by 97% and saved approximately \$500,000 per year. In addition, physicians, nurses, and other emergency room staff no longer need to wait several hours or days for patient records to be transcribed — this information is available immediately, saving valuable time and speeding critical care to each patient. As Leidheiser sums it up, “Dragon Medical is an outstanding product. It allows me to save an enormous amount of time and improves the effectiveness of the way my colleagues and I communicate. I see the popularity of it growing enormously and expect widespread use of the technology in a few years. I don’t believe Dragon Medical is simply a tool for physicians and physicians’ assistants. It is so easy to learn and use that I would like to see us expand the deployment to our nurses, secretaries and even office personnel.”

**Challenge:** Simultaneously improve the efficiency of a hospital’s emergency department, reduce operating costs and improve the quality of medical records by replacing paper medical records with electronic ones.

**Solution:** Deploy A4’s HEALTHMATICS ED EMR application with Dragon Medical speech recognition software accessible via wireless PCs and portable handheld tablets so physicians can dictate progress notes for medical records directly into the organization’s EHR application eliminating paper and the need for transcription services.

**Results:** Dramatic reduction in transcription costs; the organization saved approximately \$500,000 the first year — with the software paying for itself the first month of use. The emergency department has reduced reliance on manual transcription services by 97% and the organization anticipates a substantial future savings.

**For product information please visit Nuance Healthcare at [www.nuance.com/healthcare](http://www.nuance.com/healthcare) or call 866-748-9537.**

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