TDS Connection

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FEATURED STORY

The Winning Equation: How Stanford Added Digits and Saved Resources

By **Lisa Tsering**, *Internal Communications Specialist, TDS*

What would happen if a world-renowned health care organization ran out of numbers? Not money or staff, but patient medical record numbers, or MRNs. This was the threat faced by Stanford Medicine — but thanks to efforts by the Technology & Digital Solutions group, they've solved the problem, not only ahead of time but at a cost savings, too.

"Our legacy MRN range was 8 digits long, and we were reaching the end of the available numbering range," explained TJ Davison, Senior IT Project Manager, TDS PMO.

"We were projected to run out of unique MRNs sometime in 2025, meaning we would not be able to continue creating new patient records. By expanding our medical record number range to 10 digits, Stanford Medicine will be able to continue creating new patient records and serving our community for decades into the future."

Collaborating for a Win

Davison calls the project "a major collaborative effort" across Stanford Health Care, Stanford Medicine Children's Health, and the Stanford University School of Medicine. "Over a hundred Epic analysts, technical support representatives, TDS teams, managers, and operational stakeholders worked together across the entire Stanford organization to bring this project live," he said.

"Congratulations. Switching MRNs can be tricky and you did a great job getting the change into production smoothly."

Gary Fritz, Vice President
Chief of Applications

"Our Integration, Clinical Applications, Patient Access, Health Information Management, Ambulatory, Inpatient, Cardiovascular Health, Lab, and Imaging teams were among the top supporters in TDS — however, this project would not have been possible without the contributions of practically every TDS team. The Stanford Medicine Children's Health Digi-IS team also played a major role in bringing this project live successfully under Brad Burnett's leadership as PM."

The TDS Revenue Cycle portfolio outlined in 2010 that the organization would need to expand MRN digits; however, at that time Stanford Children's wasn't live on Epic, he said. Therefore, the need to expand the MRNs has been on the roadmap for over a decade, anticipating this need and timing it to align with the organization's needs and the Stanford Children's timeline. Initiated in early 2023, the project was initially projected to be completed by November 2024, working backwards from the 2025 deadline.

Accelerating the Timeline

By the first quarter of 2024, after conducting an analysis of downstream systems, the team identified opportunities to move up the go-live date to June 18, 2024.

"This revised timeline allowed us ample time to thoroughly test the impacts and interfaces with our various downstream systems. Additionally, it enabled us to achieve significant cost and resource savings for the IT teams at Stanford Health Care and Stanford Medicine Children's Health," said Davison. The project successfully went live ahead of schedule, culminating a roughly 1-1/2-year effort.

"This was a huge lift. Thanks to all the team members for getting it done!"

Anurang Revri, Vice President
Chief Enterprise Architect

Special Thanks and Recognition

"Big thanks to **Vikrant Singh**, **RamKumar Chokkalingam**, **Ravi Sharma**, and **Asha Gorur** from our core project team for their extensive work in testing, cutover, and go-live support over the past few weeks!" he said.

A view of the command center during the MRN expansion.