



"Pyxis® Advisor gives us the opportunity to be **more proactive** and **enhance communication** between Physicians, Pharmacists and Nursing."

*Diana L. Bond, RPh
Director of Pharmaceutical Services*



Helping improve patient care: A new automated clinical surveillance service alerts Nurses to the potential for adverse events with critically ill patients.

As one of the country's fastest-growing cities in the early 21st century, Las Vegas, Nevada has had to shoulder all the demographic challenges that distinction entails. Through it all, University Medical Center (UMC) has steadfastly maintained its role as the safety net for the sickest and neediest patients in this metro area of nearly two million people. UMC, a 565-bed facility affiliated with the University of Nevada School of Medicine, combines the role of county hospital with that of Nevada's only Level 1 Trauma Center, only Burn-Care Unit and a world-class children's hospital.

A key piece of UMC's patient care strategy is a closed-loop medication management system anchored by the Pyxis® MedStation® 4000 system. Now UMC is advancing that strategy by becoming the first hospital in the nation to adopt Pyxis® Advisor, the only software available to analyze clinical data from multiple sources and deliver alerts to Nurses at their medication-dispensing stations when the potential for adverse drug reactions are detected.

Helping to improve patient safety.

UMC implemented the first-of-its-kind software in December 2009 on its Cardiac Care Unit (CCU) and Cardiovascular Care Unit (CVCU), whose 24 beds support some of the sickest patients in the hospital. Pyxis® Advisor is built on the Patient Event Advisor platform, which UMC previously implemented. The latter technology assists Clinical Pharmacists in identifying patients for potential adverse clinical events and tracks laboratory results for any changes that may require potential intervention. By monitoring hospital inpatient information for potential adverse clinical events in real time, the Pharmacy can expand surveillance

efforts hospital-wide. Through the connectivity of Pyxis® Advisor, Nurses are getting the same kind of clinical decision information where it can help them most in caring for their patients.

Using the Pyxis® MedStation® system touch screen, CCU Nurses like Edna Jimenez, RN, call up critical medication information about their patients to guide them in the medication monitoring process. Enter Pyxis® Advisor. If a patient's lab value crosses a pre-defined threshold, such as a patient on Warfarin with a high INR, an alert is triggered on the Pyxis® MedStation® screen as the Nurse is dispensing medications. "It stops your workflow," she says, "until appropriate action is taken."

Giving Nurses the tools they need.

"We have a significant focus on medication safety," says Diana Bond, UMC's Director of Pharmaceutical Services. "It's not just Physicians and Pharmacists who need timely information, but also our most active resource—Nurses—need to be engaged. Pyxis® Advisor gives us the opportunity to be more proactive and enhance communication between Physicians, Pharmacists and Nursing. Our intent is to give Nurses the tools they need at the point of care."

UMC Nurses view Pyxis® Advisor as another vital piece in an integrated system aimed at helping reduce medication errors. "Now I know I have a safety net," says Christine Rumbold, RN, "and that is reassuring given our patients are so critically ill."





MEDIA RELEASE

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Public and Media Relations • (702) 383-3987 • FAX (702) 383-2067 • www.umcsn.com

Danita Cohen
Public Relations Coordinator
danita.cohen@umcsn.com

For Immediate Release

UMC FIRST HOSPITAL IN THE COUNTRY WITH CAREFUSION'S PYXIS® ADVISOR TECHNOLOGY

UMC is trailblazing patient safety initiatives as the first hospital in the country to use the CareFusion Pyxis® Advisor. Along with the human touch, the newest technology is assisting physician, pharmacists and nurses by alerting them to medications that have the potential to affect a patient's changing condition.

"This automated surveillance system reviews our patient's laboratory results to help ensure the medications prescribed for them are not conflicting with a fluctuation in their lab results," said UMC Pharmacist Don Frisch. "A physician may have prescribed a medication a few days ago and based on new lab results that medication may not currently be the best remedy."

For instance, if a patient's lab result indicated an elevated potassium level and if the patient happened to be on a potassium raising medication, the nurse would see an alert on the dispensing machine so the physician could be contacted before the medication was given to the patient. The pharmacy would receive a similar notice that a particular medication is no longer the best course for a patient.

"This latest technology adds another layer to the superior bedside care we provide our patients, helping to ensure the best possible outcomes," said UMC CEO Kathy Silver.

For more information about UMC, please call Danita Cohen, Public Relations Coordinator at 383-3987 or email danita.cohen@umcsn.com. UMC can also be found on Facebook under University Medical Center of Southern Nevada.

UMC is the only public, non-profit hospital in Clark County and operates the state's only Level I Trauma Center and Organ Transplant Center, Level II Pediatric Trauma, and Lions Burn Care Center. UMC is home to Children's Hospital of Nevada, the only one of its kind in the Silver State that is recognized by the National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions (NACHRI.) UMC and Children's Hospital of Nevada offer the highest level of care within 10,000 square miles. UMC is affiliated with the University of Nevada School of Medicine and serves as the state's major clinical campus. Through its affiliation with the School of Medicine, residency programs in emergency medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, family practice, general surgery and pediatrics are offered at UMC. UMC operates several Quick Care and Primary Care clinics around Clark County. UMC is home to several specialty service lines including orthopedics, pediatrics, neonatology, cardiology, neurology, and oncology, among others. Visit www.umcsn.com and childrenshospitalofnevada.org for more information.