

MMH recognized for Electronic Medical Records implementation

Written by Chris Lee

Melissa Memorial Hospital was recently presented with a Nextpertise Integration Leadership Award for the efforts during the recent implementation of the Electronic Medical Records within the hospital.

Three MMH employees traveled to Orlando, Fla. for a NextGen Users Group Meeting Nov. 11-14 and were surprised when MMH was recognized at a ceremony toward the end of the conference.

“I don’t see the award as a goal,” MMH administrator John Ayoub said. “It’s not the destination, but it is confirmation that we are on the right path.”

MMH went live with the new EMRs Sept. 11.

Ayoub said the award is also external validation that MMH is blessed with excellent staff. “I know that I have a fantastic staff and they put forth a wonderful effort. They are patient-centered and focused on doing the right thing all the time.”

The award is for leadership integration. Ayoub said the award recognizes that MMH is leading the way on the path of the integration journey.

David Bickford, director of IT at MMH, said there were a lot of vendors and partners on hand during the four-day conference in Orlando. He was joined by super user Cindy Weed, RN and then-clinic director Melissa Mayden.

Bickford said the biggest reason for attending was to utilize the learning sessions.

UGM is an annual event that provides a distinct forum for clients using NextGen products and services to discuss and learn industry developments, product enhancements and emerging

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trends for improving health care delivery.

Ayoub said the award was something new for NextGen to present. There were over 4,500 people in attendance and only two hospitals received the award. The other happened to be Yuma District Hospital.

Other area hospitals such as Haxtun Hospital District had a presence at the conference last month as well.

Ayoub said MMH and Yuma have worked well together in the past. Bickford said he has been in contact with Jason Hawley, chief information officer in Yuma, throughout the go-live process.

“It really is that external validation and I’m very pleased,” Ayoub said.

Bickford added MMH was recognized because they are on the cusp of integrating all of NextGen’s suites more so than other hospitals.

Bickford also noted MMH used some different methodologies on how they deployed the EMRs, how they engaged the team and how they performed their testing and training.

NextGen liked the methodologies used by MMH so much they asked Bickford and Hawley to present at one of the sessions at the conference. Bickford said it was a fairly full session with people standing just to hear what they had to say.

Bickford said the conference has already opened some doors that will allow MMH to partner with other hospitals, not just to help them, but to learn new ideas as well.

“This award is not about one person. It’s about the team,” the administrator said. “Everybody is

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getting on board with this.”

“Every one of our staff should be proud at the fact that we were recognized,” Ayoub said.

“It was a pat on the back for the hospital for sure,” Bickford added.

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