

# Optimization of Your Epic Ambulatory and EpicRx Medication Software

## Do you have a strategy for supporting the medication content in Epic Ambulatory & EpicRx?

The pharmacist informatics consultants at **The Robertson Group** are experienced in the analysis, design and development of medication and allergy content and approaches to designing the infrastructure and resource plan to support that content over time.

How are you currently monitoring medication master file records that become obsolete or inactive as a result of a database change or a drug being pulled off the market? An early investment in designing how you will apply and maintain

medication and allergy content will save you resources and increase revenue capture while protecting you against potential error and liability.

From simpler solutions like standardized naming conventions to more complex strategies like a multi-faceted approach to disease management through the use of multiple Epic decision support tools, our pharmacist informatics consultants have the knowledge, certification and experience to leverage your complex Epic tools.

## Are you seeing a return on your investment with the Epic decision support tools?

Once an organization has been through the arduous task of implementing the fully featured Epic Ambulatory software, it often becomes difficult to assign the resources or find the expertise to leverage the software decision support tools. Our experienced pharmacist informatics consultants have implemented many Epic decision support solutions to assist organizations with formulary management, patient safety initiatives, and targeted pharmaceutical cost reduction programs.

- SMARTSET USABILITY AND CONTINUITY:**  
 Our consultants can assist you in building smart sets that help your clinicians “do the right thing” by prescribing based on the clinical evidence, cost initiatives, and risk factors. We can help you build smart sets or other Epic tools that deliver the evidence just in time at the point the prescribing decision is made.
- DEVELOPING AN ORGANIZED, MAINTAINABLE REMINDER AND ALERT STRATEGY:**  
 Our pharmacist consultants have experience in evaluating the First Data Bank drug-drug, drug-allergy, and drug-diagnosis interaction information. They can help you choose the alerts that make the most sense for patient

safety while preventing “alert fatigue” for your clinicians. We assist you in designing a strategy that can be maintained insuring your clinical resources spend their time on the “right stuff.”

- SMARTRXS FOR QUICK ACCESS TO PRESCRIBING ALTERNATIVES FOR A CONDITION:**  
 This tool is a quick method for providing your preferred prescribing choices right at the time the clinician is writing their electronic prescription. An approach might be to ask yourself “What are the top 5 hospital admissions related to medication issues (side effects, toxicities, interactions) that can be addressed by a medication alternative alert or criteria-based presolving at the point of ordering?”
- BUILDING MEDICATION PREFERENCE LIST WITH SIG, DISPENSE AND REFILL DEFAULTS:**  
 We bring you consultants who are licensed pharmacists as well as experienced medical informaticians; we can help you build and maintain the currency of prescription detail making prescribing of the most common medications a one-step process for clinicians in both the primary care and specialty care settings.

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**Are you using the SureScripts e-prescribing capabilities of your Epic software?**

Our pharmacist consultants have worked closely with SureScripts and Epic Systems Corporation to understand the nuances of the e-prescribing capabilities within the newest Epic Ambulatory versions. We can assist you with understanding

this new functionality and designing a plan for implementing the features to streamline the prescribing process and order transmittal to the patient's chosen pharmacy or your internal pharmacy.

**What is your plan for insuring the quality of medication information in Epic Ambulatory? EpicRx?**

The medication functionality and content within Epic Ambulatory is rich and robust. However, with the insertion of content comes the commensurate responsibility to insure the content is current, accurate and reflects preferred practices for your organization. Our pharmacist informatics

consultants are experienced in assisting you with the processes and resources necessary to assess the quality of your existing medication, allergen and immunization content, while recommending staffing and approaches to ongoing maintenance.

**Are you meeting your NCQA and JCAHO "medication reconciliation" goals?**

We can help you identify consistent approaches to comply with NCQA and JCAHO's "medication reconciliation" goals for reconciling medications across the continuum of care - whenever a patient moves from one setting, service, or clinician to

another, the medication list must reflect the changes that occurred. In addition, we can offer pharmacist expertise regarding discharge medications and discharge medication information for your patients.

**Are you capturing all the potential revenue you can for clinic-administered medications?**

Clinic administered medications are a multi-million dollar expenditure and it has been estimated that biologic costs are increasing at 30% a year. Are you capturing all the information necessary to create an accurate and timely bill for these products and services? What opportunity do they have to conduct patient-, drug-, or physician-specific analysis of the administration, quality, and safety, clinical and cost effectiveness of these

medications? As a starting point, we might suggest identifying the top 25 high cost, high risk, frequently used medications and determining if the correct medication procedure code is currently in use. Does the order lead the clinician or nurse to document the correct billable units? We can help you build tools in Epic Ambulatory and EpicRx to increase revenue capture.

We will work with you and your team to identify additional opportunities for addressing your medication and allergy content. For example, we have worked with Epic customers to evaluate and design solutions for:

- electronic refill authorizations
- oncology, anticoagulation and home health medication management
- version upgrades and medication-related release notes review
- the development of training content for the medication and allergy functionalities.

Please consult our website at [www.therobertsongroup.org](http://www.therobertsongroup.org) to learn more about our e-prescribing expertise and resources.



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