About Peachtree Orthopedics

Peachtree Orthopedics has been serving the Atlanta population for over 60 years, providing a lifetime of care for patients and families. Thirty four expert physicians are fellowship trained, going beyond general orthopedic training to specialize in a specific part of the body, leading to higher quality care, less pain, a shorter recovery and better outcomes. Patients can be confident knowing that Peachtree Orthopedics' doctors are leaders in their field, providing cutting-edge technology in state-of-the-art facilities. Peachtree Orthopedics' two outpatient surgery centers are using the Envi® web-based supply chain solution from Inventory Optimization Solutions (IOS).

The Situation

With disparate systems in place, many of the supply chain processes at Peachtree Orthopedics had to be completed manually. As a result, there were too many time-consuming tasks and paperwork. "With manual processing of orders and invoices, the amount of paperwork we handled was extremely burdensome," said Taylor Richardson, ASC Operations Strategist, Peachtree Orthopedics. "We'd create a purchase order on the computer, print it, email it to the sales rep, receive paper invoices, handle the matching manually – the whole process took time and multiple touchpoints to complete, including approval processes. I felt that we could be far more efficient if we could eliminate the mounds of paperwork and steps."

The Challenges

Peachtree Ortho's outpatient surgery centers use Great Plains as their financial system and the DeRoyal Continuum system for product tracking. The team realized they needed to develop a more integrated approach to their overall supply chain infrastructure, and as a result, considered a number of materials management systems that would address both the automation of processes, as well as integration for data sharing.

Richardson noted the steps the team at Peachtree undertook to start improving business processes. "We set objectives and identified system requirements needed to improve our supply chain and related processes, including:

- Improving our visibility across the full supply chain
- Overcoming the paperwork and multiple touchpoints required by manual processes
- Improving search functionality for purchase orders
- Tracking implant documentation back to cases and patients
- Automating invoicing and payment processes by interfacing with our Great Plains system

If software systems aren't integrated, there's no efficiency – you have to get the data from one system into another and manual keying isn't the answer. Our priority is patient care, not data entry. We needed a solution that would tie to other systems to minimize data entry and let the data flow automatically."

TAYLOR RICHARDSON
ASC Operations Strategist
Peachtree Orthopedics

The Solution

After researching several options, Richardson and team selected the Envi® web-based supply chain solution from Inventory Optimization Solutions (IOS). "With three key systems across our supply chain, we needed to interface with Envi to reduce manual processes while increasing accuracy and standardization."

Peachtree Ortho customized their Envi instance with modules that met specific needs for integration and functionality, including:

- Purchasing
- Receiving
- AP
- Adjustments
- Reporting
- Inventory Templates

Outcomes and Results

"We've seen results in numerous areas," said Richardson. "We've reduced the amount of time materials managers spend at computers and given them time to ensure supplies are stocked, in turn reducing case delays due to stock-outs. We have transparency between central billing and surgery centers, and can search a physician's name, finding all implants affiliated with that doctor's cases. Previously, physical inventory counts were a manual process that took days to complete, but now with Envi, we can use barcodes and scanners to complete inventory in a few hours.

"With an integration between Envi and IDS Solutions (Invoice Delivery Service), we now receive a higher percentage of invoices electronically, which gives us greater accuracy and enables faster processing. In fact, we've processed over 1,200 electronic invoices since going live with this solution.

"We've improved internal benchmarking between both surgery centers. The first step was consolidating into one inventory database. Now, we can see which center has which products at what cost, and we can standardize pricing across both centers' purchase orders. This has been a strong step forward in internal benchmarking. Then, using Envi's reporting functionality, we can present the doctors with spend data to decide where we can consolidate and standardize products. We have visibility to all products in use and information for better decisions.

"We use Envi's purchasing dashboard to track trends of spend by vendor, which has helped us establish certain contracts and rebate programs since we easily see spend with each vendor."

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– Taylor Richardson
Peachtree Orthopedics

Summary of Best Practices

System Integration

The goal was to integrate existing systems so data could flow seamlessly, eliminating manual entry. Peachtree Ortho has successfully integrated Envi with two current systems (Great Plains and DeRoyal Continuum) and will be completing a third within the year. In addition, Envi is integrated with IDS, which allows them to receive a higher percentage of invoices electronically.

Automating Manual Processes

Peachtree Ortho has significantly expedited AP processes. Data now seamlessly exchanges between the Great Plains system and Envi. The team has greatly reduced manual processing time, increased the number of invoices processed electronically, and benefits from automatic invoice validation, increased accuracy and reduced late fees.

Centralization and Visibility

With Envi, there is now a centralized place to track spend. The team can see what each surgery center orders and at what price. With this information they can go back to vendors and negotiate better pricing tiers and ensure greater consistency.