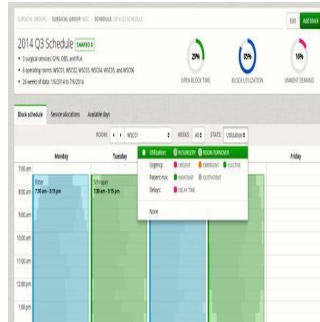## Predictive Analytics Can Improve Surgery Schedules and Readmissions

An entrepreneur has raised $7 million from investors to expand a predictive analytics software platform for hospitals and large surgical centres. Rich Krueger, CEO of Patient Route Systems, said in a recent interview with MedCity News that the goal of the predictive analytics tool is to help analysts and department heads within health systems to detect patterns and to identify problems at their source. Doing so facilitates administrative efforts to solve operational challenges, such as reducing readmissions and operation room backlogs.

Surgery schedules is one area that stands to be impacted by predictive analytics. It is not always easy for surgeons to identify which cases in the OR are most urgent, or to spot emergent cases. Complicating the workflow is the fact that many unplanned surgeries are done after regular clinic hours with readily available staff on site. When urgent cases must be managed like this, it can affect elective surgery schedules. The software can improve on-time starts, reduce turnover time and reduce length of stay for urgent patients, Krueger said.

Satellite centres that operate around bigger facilities within a healthcare system often suffer from patient bottlenecks, which is another area that can benefit from the predictive analytics platform. By coordinating staff to match patient needs at multiple locations, patients move into and out of the satellite centres efficiently and with attentive care. Of course, the platform is there to support any given hospital's existing clinical policies.

At the moment, Patient Route Systems has clients in six different states. Customers include Boston Medical Center and the Greater Baltimore Medical Center. It focuses on hospitals and surgical centres with more than 400 beds, and has engaged at least one academic medical centre. Funding for the project comes from Black Granite Capital and Pierpoint Capital, two of the company's initial investors. The business was originally bootstrapped by Krueger himself.

Krueger started Patient Route Systems in 2013 after previously leading DynamicOps, which was acquired by VMware in 2012; Krueger worked as a vice president at VMware. Patient Route Systems expects to double the size of its 12-person business by the end of 2015.

Source: MedCity News

Image Credit: Patient Route Systems

Published on : Mon, 30 Mar 2015