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The Boston University Medical Center, an example of computerization of critical areas

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Although it is early to know the results that will result from the implementation of Picis, Anesthesia Manager, the hospital expects to achieve improved quality of critical areas and the service that offers its patients.

Located in one of the most beautiful cities in the United States, the Boston University Medical Center, currently has 547 beds, 100 of which are designed to care for chronic patients. With more than 600,000 outpatient visits, the medical center has 5,000 employees, 1,000 of them doctors, and has an annual budget of five billion dollars.



Boston University Medical Center

In December 2006, the center decided to reorganize its surgical blocks, despite critics against computerization of the department of anesthesiology, to improve the quality of service provided to patients. *"The ability to have a system reach all hospital buildings and have the overwhelming ubiquity of our computers to allow doctors to access information from anywhere in downtown without having to bear a Tablet PC, facilitated the process of change, however, there was a strong resistance to change because the anesthesia record was done on paper and that requires specialists to understand and change their work dynamics," explained Dr. Rafael Ortega.*

A simple choice

Before carrying out the project, the Boston University Medical Center decided to make a

study of the solutions on the market for such purposes. To that end, Boston University Medical Center looked at Philips, EKO Systems, Drager and Picis. *"We wanted a tool that was easy to use, that would be integrated with existing systems and give us functionality, reliability, security and flexibility,"* stated Ortega.

Once they reviewed specifications for the tool, they realized that Anesthesia Manager from Picis was the system that best fit their needs. *"We had a previous positive experience with this Supplier — we had the solution OR Manager already implanted and successful integration. In addition, we appreciate it as a locally based company in Massachusetts, which had international presence, and had a sales team of doctors that could explain to us operation of the tool,"* says Ortega.

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The implementation period ended barely two months ago, but integration with the teams, according to Dr. Ortega has been very good: *"It's early to know the results of the project, but I am very optimistic about it. It has had minimal impact on productivity, users are satisfied and there have not been neglected patients."*

Although very little time has passed, those responsible for the Boston University

Medical Center project, have very clear benefits to achieve with the computerization of the department of anesthesiology: *"We want to comply with regulations and rules as simply as possible, facilitate the work of our doctors and nurses, be able to access information in a more straightforward way, while the files of patients are more complete and confident, saving resources and role of hospital."*