

Implant tracking software lets surgeons archive, search for recalled devices

Company says that the system could be used to funnel implant data into a national registry.

by Gina Brockenbrough

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Users of a new Web-based software application that tracks implant lot codes say that the technology gives surgeons instant data on their historical implant use, helps identify patents with recalled devices and allows for better management of medical devices.

The WebOps Logistics software captures and archives all information about a surgical case as it advances from scheduling and receiving supplies, to device implantation and reordering stock. The phone-enabled software allows medical device sales representatives, health care providers and back-office support staff to access the information using Blackberry and palm mobile devices and computers supporting a variety of browsers. The software is custom-built for orthopedics and was developed by WebOps in collaboration with a custom software developer.

“[The] software has automated a lot of physician-support functionality so when the practice post the type of case it is [on the WebOps site], the system recognizes a checklist of what the doctor’s preferences are and what type of products he uses,” Joe Carlson, vice president of operations at WebOps, told ORTHOPEDICS TODAY. “It automatically populates the instructions to the manufacturing or sales distribution company on exactly what has to be shipped for the case and eliminates a lot of error.”

Lot Code traceability

During the surgery, the codes of the implanted devices are also recorded and archived. The implant distributor can immediately view which products were used and order replacement devices. The patient data are password protected

and encrypted, and the software has provisions to configure permissions on a need-to know bases.

The stored data also serves as an archive for surgeons to search their cases by date, hospital, procedure or patient name. The lot code traceability can help surgeons easily identify patients with recalled implants.

Using the software could also put surgeons one step ahead as the FDA considers creating a national joint registry. “We do not know what form the joint registry could take, but it is clear their concept of it is a combined public and private enterprise that is sort of a cooperative venture, and it could be comprised of several different systems aggregating data into a single database and single view,” Alex Kucera, vice president of sales at WebOps, said. “We can easily foresee that this could be a system that a surgeon could tie into.”

Re-templating

Ormonde M. Mahoney, MD, has been using the software in all of his cases. “I think that one of things that is valuable is the fact that it allows you to deal with problems and unexpected things that can occur,” he said. “You can re-template while you are actually in the operating room because it is a Web-based system, so that you can get right into it. It is easy to put in your X-rays and you do not have to have an electronic link between your digital system and the hospital system.”

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For more information:

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