

A case study of electronic post-op cataract data return from community optometrist practice to a large Moorfields satellite clinic EMR via the Medisoft web portal

Background

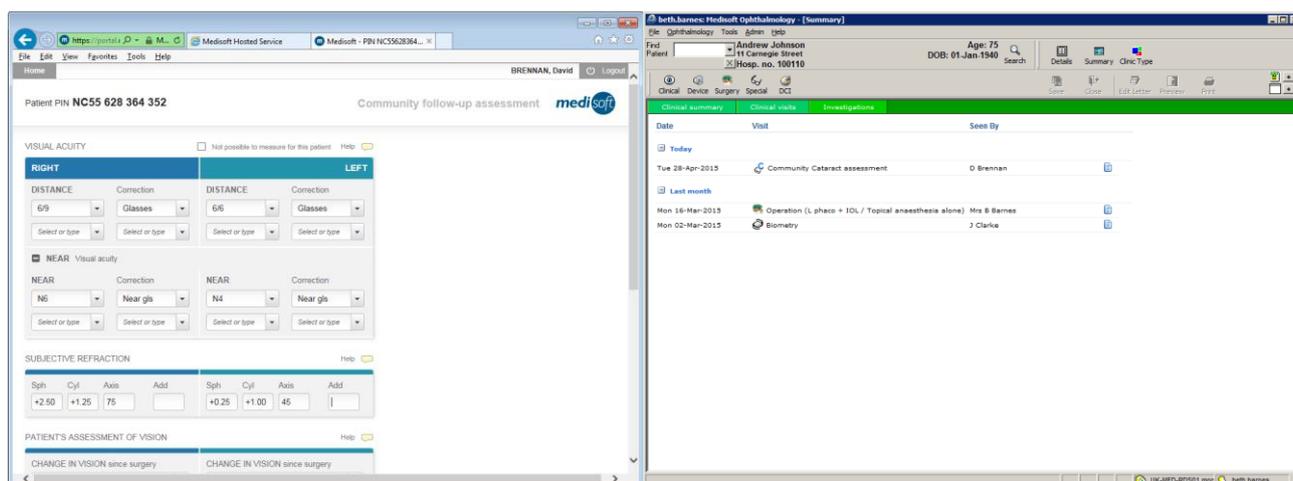
All routine post-op cataract assessments are conducted by Moorfields accredited community optometrists in their local practices near to a large Moorfields satellite clinic. Following uncomplicated cataract surgery the patient is discharged to the community optometrist of their choice for assessment at 5 weeks post-op. Until recently, with payment of a small fee and working to a Moorfields protocol, the community optometrist returned the assessment data to the hospital via a paper form.

As part of The National Ophthalmology Database Audit being conducted by The Royal College of Ophthalmologists, Medisoft developed a secure web portal for electronic data return direct to the hospital electronic medical record (EMR) from any registered community optometrist’s practice. This mechanism of electronic data return was piloted at a large Moorfields satellite clinic from August 2015.

The Caldicott Guardian at the hospital gave her approval and the community optometrists were given a secure log in to The Web Portal.

Method

A unique PIN number is generated by Medisoft for every patient at the time of their cataract surgery which appears on the patient discharge letter. The community optometrist logs in to the portal following the post-op assessment, enters the PIN, adds the data to a form and sends it electronically. The data appears automatically, in the patient’s hospital EMR, the next day. The portal is web-based and secure, and the patient is only identified via the PIN number, therefore there is no need for secure (N3) networking or additional secure software at the optometrist practice.



Impact of electronic data transfer

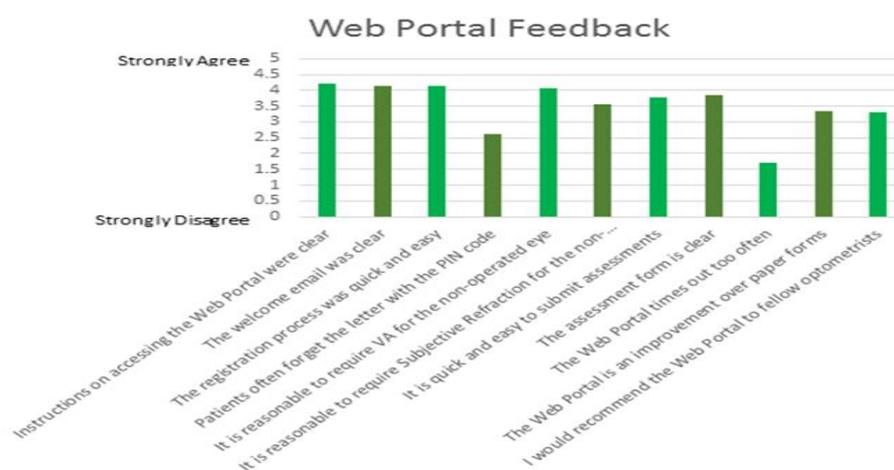
- Quick, easy to use, secure web based portal
- Less paper-based form filling for the community optometrist
- Less postage costs for the community optometrist
- Less chance of lost paper communications
- Less manual data entry at the hospital (avoids errors and frees up hospital staff)

Results of portal use and optometrist experience

This Moorfields satellite clinic historically receives paper based post-op refractive and vision data from the community optometrist for 90% of all patients undergoing cataract surgery (annual audit via Medisoft EMR). For the period 1st September 2015 to 29th February 2016 58.5% of all post-op data was returned via the web portal and 65% in the month 24th March to 24th April. Thus far 40 community optometrists have used the portal.

A questionnaire was sent to all participating optometrists in December 2015

Results showed....



Most optometrists that completed the survey agreed that:

- Instructions on accessing the Web Portal were clear
- The registration process was quick and easy
- It is quick and easy to submit assessments
- The web portal was an improvement over paper forms

Conclusion

- Web based transfer of post-op cataract data is secure and maintains confidentiality
- Web based transfer requires no difficult hardware or software changes at practices
- Community optometrists are happy to use the portal (a small fee is paid for doing the post-op assessment)
- Electronic data transfer saves staff time in community practice and in the HES and provides almost instant clinical data transfer from primary to secondary care
- It enables fast, efficient collection of data for post-op audit/ surgeon revalidation without the need for hospital based post-op cataract clinics or manual entry from paper based returns.