



Abu Dhabi Diabetes Centre selects DIAMOND Clinical Information System

DIAMOND, the UK's leading Diabetes Clinical Information System, has been chosen for use within the Imperial College London Diabetes Centre in Abu Dhabi.

Established in a partnership by Mubadala Development Company and Imperial College London, the Imperial College London Diabetes Centre in Abu Dhabi has become the leading diabetes resource in the region. This state-of-the-art Centre opened in the summer of 2006 and provides the highest level of specialised patient care from first diagnosis to the management of all the complications associated with diabetes. To achieve this, the Centre is equipped with comprehensive diagnostic facilities including digital retinal photography, retinal laser machines, and the latest in cardiac echocardiography imaging and stress testing to detect the earliest signs of heart disease. Research conducted at the Centre encompasses epidemiological, basic, clinical and genetic research focussing on diabetes in the UAE. One of the Centre's leading priorities is to provide continuing education for health professionals and the general public.

The UK's leading Diabetes Clinical Information System, DIAMOND, has been chosen to help manage patient care within the new Centre, integrating seamlessly with the Centre's workflows, diagnosis equipment and enterprise management software, and providing real-time, end-to-end electronic patient management in a paperless environment.

DIAMOND has been developed in the UK by Hicom Technology in association with leading clinicians and healthcare specialists and is currently in use in over 100 healthcare centres worldwide. This innovative information management software application meets the needs of the modern diabetes centre and primary care clinic. Through the integration of patient medical management, investigation, education, treatment and care planning, DIAMOND enables healthcare professionals at the Imperial College London Diabetes Centre to make informed decisions based on accurate and timely information.

Modular in structure, DIAMOND has the ability to cater for all areas of activity related to Diabetes care. Modules can be easily and seamlessly expanded to include additional modules developed to meet specific requirements. The DIAMOND range of modules includes:

- Specialty specific episodes
- Home visit templates
- Integration engine
- NSF reporting
- Patient education
- Flexible audit module
- Digital image recording
- ICD 10 coding engine
- Home monitoring
- Remote access via laptops
- Drug lists
- Links to hand-held devices
- CV Risk Calculator
- Internet/Intranet interfaces

For further information, or to arrange a demonstration, please contact John Sanderson.

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Case Study: Imperial College London Diabetes Centre

DIGITAL CARE IN PRACTICE

Imperial College London Diabetes Centre (ICLDC) doesn't feel like a hospital. Aside from the newly built rooms, the calm air of the staff and the lack of patients (the centre's official launch comes later this month), what is most conspicuous is the total absence of paper. In this clinic, there are no paper records, no test results and no storage room for patient files. All the interactions between the pathology machines and the medical devices are automated, and the results stored on the IT system. Welcome to the UAE's first truly digital healthcare facility. As the centre's medical director, Dr Maha Barakat, says: "It's certainly made our lives much simpler."

The architects behind the system are IT companies Hicom, a UK-based firm, and Injazat, a local consultancy group. In simple terms, Hicom wrote the applications and interfaces for the centre, and Injazat developed the infrastructure required to support the system. Working to a system blueprint, it was a joint effort that took over 18 months from start to finish.

"It was certainly a challenge," admits John Sanderson, director of Hicom. "We'd never done anything on this scale before."

What they came up with, using a tailored version of Hicom's brand system Diamond, was a single solution, fully integrated, completely paperless system.

"This is something we built from scratch," says Ibrahim Lari, Injazat CEO.

"We had to create a system that would be fully automated," explains Sanderson. "All the interactions between the pathology machines and the medical devices had to collect data that would be visible within the context of Diamond."

But the results of their efforts are impressive. For patients attending the clinic, every aspect of their visit is managed through the IT system, courtesy of a smart card that

'triggers' the computer. Small enough to slip into your wallet, it's a far cry from the bulky files that normally accompany appointments.

As patients are escorted through the consultation rooms, arranged in quiet pods around the nurses station, the card tracks their progress, registering their test results and updating their online records.

"The card informs the system," Sanderson explains. "Then the system knows what to do with that patient at that particular time; for example, this patient needs blood tests.



As the result of 18 months' planning, the clinic can now claim to be truly paperless

"At every point of contact, the card is used to identify where the patient is and why."

Each card only holds a unique reference to the patient, specific to the technology used in the centre. Because no sensitive data is held on the card, traditional concerns about patient confidentiality are avoided.

"The real intelligence is in the IT system," Sanderson says. "Diamond looks after the HIS, fulfils the functions of a clinical information system; all the pathology

information and manages pharmacy."

This efficiency translates into clear benefits for the patient. Because the centre's machines and pathology lab are all linked to the system, test results can be viewed and shared with patients immediately.

"We are able to give them the full story within one visit," says Dr Barakat.

"As soon as a blood test result registers on the machine, both pathology and the consultant can see it at the same time."

And should the patient require a prescription, the consultant will barely have finished completing the online request before the drug is on the pharmacy counter, labelled with the dosage, frequency and duration requested.

"These are real-time solutions," says Sanderson. "The term is probably overused but, in this case, it really is a complete end-to-end solution realised through the IT system."

Admittedly, such state-of-the-art technology doesn't come cheap. But the costs, Dr Barakat says, are justified when weighed against the benefits of the system.

"Our patients will never hear 'Sorry, we can't find your notes,' or 'Sorry, we've lost your results."

"But over and above all that is that you can now perform objective audits; you can audit your care, your results; there are a lot more tools for us.

"The additional costs of getting this amazing system were worth every penny."

Now, fuelled by the success of the centre, Hicom and Injazat are in talks with several regional companies to provide similar in-house facilities.

"We have proved we can do this anywhere," Lari says. "This is only the start."

"Hopefully, the centre is a benchmark for future models that will improve healthcare throughout the region," Sanderson adds. "It's a major success story."