



CXAIR
Data Quality Case Study

Nottingham Cancer Centre

Case Study

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Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust (NUH) is one of the country's largest and busiest acute teaching trusts. They provide acute and specialist services to 2.5 million people within Nottingham and the surrounding communities with an annual budget in excess of £682 million of public sector funding and employ over 12,000 staff.

The Nottingham Cancer Centre coordinates the provision and strategic development of cancer services across NUH. This includes both clinical services and organisational aspects such as service and pathway improvement, planning, performance, education, peer review and audit /patient information.

The Challenge

Government legislation requires that all patients with Cancer are now entitled to treatment based on the following criteria:

- **A 14-day target** requires all patients with suspected Cancer who have received an urgent GP referral will have a maximum of a 2 week wait between the referral and their first outpatient appointment.
- **A 31-day target** requires all patients with cancer to be treated within 31 days of the decision to treat.
- **A 62-day target** requires all urgent referral patients to be treated within 62 days of the referral received by a GP.

Failure to meet these targets result in fines for the Trust as well as affecting the level and timeliness of care a patient receives.

The Data Administrators at NUH are required to collect data for submission using their Cancer Waiting Times (CWT) system to the Department of Health (DoH) on a weekly basis.

This data is processed for Data Quality before being stored in the Open Exeter database for trust-by-trust comparison. The Open Exeter databases contains entries for all cancer patients in the UK.

Due to the complex process of administering patient data across multiple systems there is huge potential for entering incomplete or inconsistent data.

It is essential that the data is validated for quality and completeness before being submitted to Open Exeter. Any issues will result in the file being rejected which can ultimately result in funding being cut if data cannot be processed by the DoH in a timely fashion.



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How CXAIR Has Helped

To satisfy this requirement, NUH required a fast and flexible ad-hoc enquiry and data analysis tool. Prior to using CXAIR, the lack of validation rules meant that submittals to Open Exeter were often rejected causing additional cost in resources to locate the problematic data items, fix them and re-submit.

January 2009 saw new Cancer Waiting Times requirements which resulted in a change in pathway rules and the necessity for the Cancer Centre to track patients not just through their first treatment but also through every subsequent treatment that they receive, under a 31 day rule. The current NUH ICT system had to be updated to reflect these changes and the total work on that took the best part of 1 year.

Whilst data validation rules were being built in to the data entry system, CXAIR was used to write 45 separate data quality checks which were run on a daily basis to identify data items that required amendments before submittal to Open Exeter. These 45 data validation checks took less than 2 days to write and implement. Without these checks in place it would have been almost impossible for NUH to successfully submit their Cancer patient data to Open Exeter.

In addition, the Data Administrators use the ad-hoc facility to gather CWT statistics and to run audits and additional checks on data completeness.

For the Data Administrators, the use of CXAIR as a self-service solution has saved considerable time and effort. The use of CXAIR has become invaluable and ensures that their data submissions to Open Exeter have been as accurate as possible and submitted in time to avoid financial penalties.



"I use CXAIR every day and couldn't do my job without it."

Pamela Ellis,

Performance and Redesign Manager

"The system has been in place for well over a year now and we have not had to change a thing since the original installation, maintenance is minimal."

Jill Weller,

Business Change Manager

"The WYSIWYG interface, it's user friendliness and the fact that you don't need to know how to write reports or code to get the answers you need out of your data means that within a couple of hours anyone could use it."

Pamela Ellis,

Performance and Redesign Manager



About Connexica

Established in 2006, Connexica provides a fundamentally different approach to information retrieval and management reporting. As a software house we defy definition because we don't fit into the conventional Business Intelligence, Enterprise Search or Data Access spaces.

Our powerful querying and analysis tools help bridge the gap between all three solutions, by offering our customers the ability to index, retrieve and analyse their organisation's data at search engine speed, easily and securely from any location.

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