



## For a hospital focused on swing beds, fast-tracking patients requires the right flow.

With the relentless pace of a 21st century world, downtime is not an option. Certainly not for small rural hospitals, and not for their patients, either, who may have jobs, families and commitments.

That's why Muenster Memorial Hospital, an 18-bed Critical Access Hospital located in North Texas serving a bi-county area north of Denton, Texas, has made its swing bed program a top priority, employing skilled nursing and therapy to fast-track the recovery of patients who have undergone surgeries such as hip and knee replacements.

"We help patients avoid the disruption and inconvenience of having to go out of the area to a larger facility," explains Michael Kent, Muenster CEO/Administrator.

Strong support for Muenster's rehab mission was also one of the reasons the hospital chose Custom Software's ChartSmart emr® as the facility's EMR solution, according to Kent. "We liked the access that ChartSmart gave to all the parties involved—now the therapists can see what the nursing staff is doing, and the doctors can keep up with patients' conditions, whether they're in the clinic or at the ER."

While Muenster implemented Custom Software's PACS several years ago, the hospital looked at a number of options during its painstaking two-year EMR search process, an evaluation that eventually narrowed to three different EMR products.

"It took time, and in the end the timing was right since ChartSmart had become available," Kent says.

And the deciding factor for ChartSmart?

"It had the most employee support," Kent explains. "They liked the natural flow of the charting that ChartSmart provided."

The former head of the hospital's radiology department, Kent understands the importance of clinical acceptance. "The users have to make the choice. A strong initial buy-in is crucial to success."

Now, with the completion of a sleek new state-of-the-art 5,000 square-foot rehabilitation unit, and with the ChartSmart iPad implementation proceeding smoothly, Muenster Memorial Hospital is on its own fast track, with just the right flow for a prosperous future.