



Pen Input Powers Sharp's Patient Care Initiatives

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- Cathy Fuhrman,
Manager of Sharp HealthCare's Document Imaging Group

The User

Sharp HealthCare in San Diego is one of the fastest growing healthcare systems in the country. There are four acute care hospitals under the Sharp umbrella, as well as three specialty hospitals, three affiliated medical groups and a health plan.

The Challenge

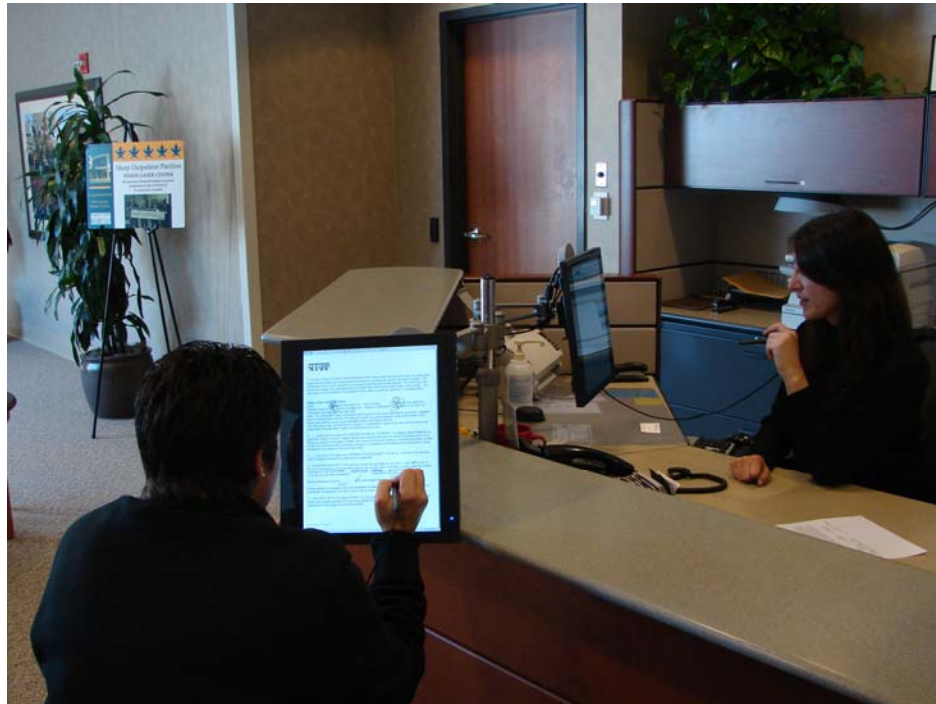
With their growing network, Sharp administrators needed help to modernize administration tasks and streamline patient check-in and recordkeeping, ensuring that Sharp's high standards for patient care are continually met.



The Solution

At a recent technology open house, guests were able to see the deployment and demonstration of two of Wacom's interactive pen displays at the Vision Center's registration desk, a configuration that is consistent with other interactive pen display deployments in other departments around the hospital. An interactive pen display is an LCD integrated with Wacom's patented cordless, battery-free, pressure-sensitive pen technology.

In this typical set-up at the Vision Center, a hospital staff member and patient each employ a pen display to review electronic versions of conditions of admission and consent forms. The two parties share information and quickly and accurately annotate, highlight, and sign required forms directly on the LCD screen. Mistakes, if they occur, can be erased prior to finalizing the digital document. Forms are available in English or Spanish, and they are stored electronically with all digital annotations and signatures permanently recorded and legally binding. Working directly on the interactive pen display eliminates the need for paper admissions forms.



A Vision Laser Center staff member and a new patient make their way through a typical consent form using Wacom's pen-on-screen capabilities.

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The Benefits

“The Wacom pen display is a critical tool in helping to reduce processing time, paper usage and costs, as well as greatly improving patient recordkeeping and accessibility,” said Cathy Fuhrman, Manager of Sharp HealthCare’s Document Imaging Group. “In addition, staff and patients enjoy the ease-of-use, freedom and control the pen delivers to the overall experience.”

Sharp joins together Wacom displays with Hyland’s OnBase ECM software and other equipment such as networked computers, scanners and card readers to build a complete hospital-patient interface solution that is fast, flexible and compliant with regulatory standards. “The cost and time saving benefits realized by pen input are significant and we are proud to be on the leading-edge of technology,” said Fuhrman. “This technology initiative is a testament to our organization’s dedication to patient care and the creation of a modern and forward-looking work environment.”

