

# Case Study



## Integration improved at St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital!



Providing an integration strategy beyond traditional point-to-point interfacing was a top priority for the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital (STEGH). There were a number of initiatives underway that required improved data management with both internal and external systems. STEGH was implementing a management reporting system that required a number of interfaces to be built and the Hospital was embarking on an application sharing project with the Thames Valley region involving six community hospitals, London Health Sciences and St. Joseph's Hospital in London, Ontario.

The Hospital decided that an integration engine would be the best overall solution to deliver the interoperability required and the key criteria in selecting an engine included: **pre-defined HL7 schemas, flexibility to integrate applications beyond the HL7 protocol, ease of use, vendor experience and price.**

Another goal in implementing an engine was to eliminate duplicate data entry. As manual systems are automated and access to patient data improved, more time can be spent directly on patient care; making the engine a key component in St. Thomas Elgin's vision to be the best community hospital in Ontario.

### Integration Delivered!

**MD Link** from MDI Solutions was selected as the solution to connect internal systems and facilitate integration with the Cerner™ systems at London Health. "MD Link provided the flexibility we required to integrate the various systems internal and external to the Hospital, and the interface design GUI was one of the best we saw on the market. We now have better control of our interface environment, significantly lowered our interface costs, and have the ability to expand our current integration",



explained Marg Kampers, Director of Systems and Decision Support for St. Thomas Elgin.

The immediate data integration need was to build an interface between STEGH's legacy ADT (demographic) system and the Nursing Workload Measurement system (GRASP™). After just **2 days training**, the IT staff at STEGH was well on their way to building this interface, with the first components built in less than a week. Lori Clifton, Integrated Systems Specialist at STEGH, noted "the predefined HL7 schemas makes designing and building interfaces a breeze and the flexibility of MD Link allowed us to easily integrate our legacy (non HL7) systems. We now have the ground work completed to integrate any other system with ADT and I was very impressed with the responsiveness and technical ability of the MDI team."

### About STEGH

The St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital is a 166 bed facility providing 24 hour coverage in Medicine, Surgery, OB, Paediatrics, Anaesthesia, Emergency and Family Medicine. The fully accredited hospital serves the city of St. Thomas and Elgin County, totaling an area of almost 100,000 residents. You can learn more about the Hospital at [www.stegh.on.ca](http://www.stegh.on.ca).

### About MD Link and MDI Solutions

MD Link is MDI's signature integration software. For MD Link and other products and services, please inquire with MDI at: **155 University Avenue, Suite 1220, Toronto, Ontario Canada M5H 3B7 • Telephone (416) 255-5113 Website: [www.mdisolutions.com](http://www.mdisolutions.com)**