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Hospital leaders can prepare their organizations to optimize supply chain efficiency and patient safety by developing plans to incorporate standard product identifiers in both integrated information systems and clinical and business processes. Ongoing process improvement to reduce manual hand-offs between siloed systems can mimic future integrated systems that will rely on standard identifiers. Limited access to and routine data cleansing of master data will encourage continued reliance on a single source of truth once external exchanges do this heavy lifting in an environment dominated by standards. Preparation now will allow quicker adoption in the future and assured total cost savings for supplies.

Rosalind Parkinson is Administrative Director of Material Systems at The Ohio State University Medical Center. She oversees strategic sourcing, purchasing, distribution, material management information systems, Emergency Preparedness and Traffic and Transportation services for this 1,200 bed, six hospital IDN.

During her 15 years in this role, Parkinson has directed innovative initiatives to contain costs and streamline operations through application of information technology. In 2004 she implemented an Automated Transport System to provide robotic handling of all supplies and waste in 2,400 carts/day between dock and floor. During previous years up to the present she directs process redesign to accommodate adoption of full EDI and other e-commerce solutions for the IDN’s centralized procurement cycle. Both efforts are notable Ohio State Best Practices recognized throughout the industry. Complete adoption of global standards provides current focus for Parkinson. In 2009, GLN’s were put in place for Ohio State with their prime distributor and selected direct suppliers. As of October 2010, Ohio State regularly receives product data through the GDSN.

Parkinson’s career began at West Virginia University where she directed construction and operations of a replacement facility for the university’s ambulatory care program. This project followed earlier coordination of West Virginia’s perinatal regionalization programs from 1974 to 1979.

Parkinson holds a Master of Public Health from the University of Pittsburgh in 1983 along with a BA and MA from the University of Wisconsin in American history. She is the immediate past chair of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission’s Citizens Advisory Committee.