

## Seattle Children's The Value of Choosing the Right Data Management Partner

**ORGANIZATION:**  **Seattle Children's**  
HOSPITAL · RESEARCH · FOUNDATION

**CHALLENGE:** Implement a data strategy using a fiscally responsible solution to effectively archive legacy data from disparate sources

**SOLUTIONS:** LKArchive and LKTransfer

### ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

**Corporate Headquarters:** Seattle, WA

**Length of Service:** Founded in 1907

**Size:** Seattle Children's is a 407 total licensed bed hospital, which includes Medical/Surgical, Cancer Care, Pediatric Cardiac and Neonatal intensive care units (ICU), Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine, and Rehabilitation Medicine.

**Recognition:** Ranked as one of the top children's hospitals in the country by U.S. News & World Report, Seattle Children's serves as the pediatric and adolescent academic medical center for Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho, representing the largest region of any children's hospital in the country.

### CHALLENGE

Seattle Children's used multiple electronic health record (EHR) systems and needed a data strategy to effectively archive its legacy data from disparate sources to move to a single EHR platform. The first hurdle was to determine the value of the legacy data, then how to secure that data and the retention laws and organizational policies for how long patient data must be available. The biggest challenge was presenting that data back to the end users in a meaningful way to meet each user's specific needs. Seattle Children's needed a partner who could help with the legacy data archive while being fiscally responsible for the organization.

### WORKING WITH ELLKAY

The project began with addressing Seattle Children's need to move to a single EHR platform on Epic. The first question was 'what to do with all the legacy data?' The hospital needed a partner to help guide its data management strategy. It made sense to work with ELLKAY to build a platform that could ingest all the data. The ultimate goal was to provide an archival product to meet the application needs of various end users across the organization from clinical to business operations. One challenge was needing to meet lab data requirements to maintain Seattle Children's lab certification. ELLKAY took this requirement into consideration and was able to meet the organization's needs.

### OUTCOMES

- ▶ The archive system delivered 100% uptime
- ▶ Successful lab reaccreditation through access to lab results and data for an indefinite period of time
- ▶ Achieved true interoperability by connecting the organization's data to all current systems
- ▶ Improved workflow efficiency with patient mapping through single sign-on
- ▶ Cut costs by decommissioning legacy software systems
- ▶ Single enterprise platform for legacy data for reference, retention, and release of information requirements

A true partnership formed between ELLKAY and Seattle Children's to help the organization realize their data strategies and future needs. Seattle Children's Senior Vice President and Chief Digital and Information Officer, Dr. Zafar Chaudry, explained that they chose ELLKAY after validating the company was able to secure, protect, archive, backup, and restore the legacy data. More importantly, data could be transferred in the future without having to pay astronomical data transfer fees.

ELLKAY helped Seattle Children's achieve true interoperability, connecting the data to existing systems. "That was the value proposition with ELLKAY — data could be transferred easily at any given time, and it was still Seattle Children's data. The beauty of the ELLKAY archive solution is you can match patients with their archived data. Within our Epic system, we can launch LKArchive and we don't have to search for the patient again. The information will be there because the matching is done via single sign-on (SSO). That's really going to drive better utilization," said Chaudry.

## RESULTS

The collaboration between ELLKAY and the team at Seattle Children's resulted in satisfied end users across the spectrum of care. Their legacy data archive improved patient care with a greater longitudinal view of patient data. It also improved clinical workflows by enabling access to legacy data without leaving Epic's Hyperspace. This SSO capability significantly improved provider satisfaction and ROI efficiency. ELLKAY showed knowledge and expertise around the data strategy, ingesting the data into their system and helping the Seattle Children's team validate and ensure that data was clean and accurate.

Chaudry described the benefits observed were first and foremost protecting the patient data and decommissioning systems that could have posed security risks to patient health information. The organization realized financial savings by decommissioning legacy software systems and eliminating ongoing licensing and maintenance fees — as well as the resources needed to sustain these disparate systems. Many other parts of the organization, such as Health Information Management, benefit from proper data management as they can more effectively do things like Release of Information.

There are approximately 1,800 Seattle Children's clinicians who have access to the archive to view historical patient data through the EHR interface, resulting in a holistic patient view to improve the quality of care. Chaudry said, "The archive system has delivered 100% uptime with no issues, clinicians are happy with the views, and the archive solution helped us successfully reach reaccreditation in our lab. Part of the accreditation process involves the ability to show access to lab results and data for an indefinite period of time. Seattle Children's ingested roughly 13 years of data into their archive. I'm very pleased with the archive product."

Chaudry said, "What really stood out in this project is ELLKAY's devotion to meet customer needs with a customer-first approach. Thanks to ELLKAY for being a true partner and achieving an archive that delivers what Seattle Children's clinical staff need. They worked with my team until the final product was what we wanted."

Seattle Children's is ready to expand LKArchive's capabilities beyond clinical, lab, and archiving, including patient accounting, ERP, and other types of legacy data. Decommissioning the organization's aging and disparate ERP systems will help save time and resources as Seattle Children's moves their data to a single solution.

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### DR. ZAFAR CHAUDRY

Senior Vice President &  
Chief Digital & Information Officer  
Seattle Children's

## ABOUT ELLKAY

ELLKAY is a recognized healthcare connectivity leader, providing solutions and services nationwide. ELLKAY empowers hospitals and health systems, diagnostic laboratories, healthcare IT vendors, payers, and other healthcare organizations with cutting-edge technologies and solutions. Since 2002, ELLKAY's system capability arsenal has grown to over 58,000 practices connected and 750+ EHR/PM systems across 1,100+ versions.



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