



Asian Hospital and Medical Center reduces ICU mortality and improves patient outcomes using UpToDate

Quality has always been the ultimate measure of healthcare success. At Asian Hospital and Medical Center (AHMC), a premier tertiary hospital accredited by the Joint Commission International as one of the most advanced healthcare institutions in the Philippines, success is spelled with a downward trend in ICU mortality, treatment of COVID-19 patients, and improved patient outcomes. Underlying these quality metrics is the hospital's commitment to embracing innovations in healthcare for an unforgettable healing experience.

AHMC began introducing innovation into their health system with the goal of enhancing clinical effectiveness. Critical to healthcare quality and safety, clinical effectiveness ensures that the total healthcare experience of patients remains a priority.

Dr. Ana Maria Jimenez, Director of Quality at AHMC, has kept this goal in mind from the time the hospital first adopted UpToDate®, an evidenced-based clinical support solution, in 2018.

“Clinical effectiveness means being able to achieve optimum processes and patient outcomes. This can be done through the application of the best knowledge derived from the latest evidence. In other words, clinical effectiveness is using evidence to improve the effectiveness of clinical practice and service delivery,” explains Dr. Jimenez.

Since its adoption, UpToDate has played a crucial role in AHMC's journey toward institutionalizing clinical effectiveness. The solution's “breathtaking flood of information,” as Dr. Jimenez describes it, is very useful in addressing AHMC's quest for an enhanced clinical effectiveness program.

UpToDate is constantly updated following a continual comprehensive review of peer-reviewed journals, clinical databases, and other resources by more than 7,300 world-renowned physician authors and editors.



“The toughest problem we faced was always the availability of quick and reliable references to help inform clinical decisions.”

– Dr. Ana Maria Jimenez
Director for Quality

Asian Hospital and Medical Center, Philippines

“Reliable clinical decision support is not only necessary at the point of care,” says Dr. Jimenez. “We also rely on it during morbidity and mortality case reviews, adverse event investigation, appropriateness review of drugs, adoption of clinical practice guidelines, or during the course of writing or reviewing policies to strengthen controls and help ensure consistent and safe care.”

Downward Trend in ICU Mortality

The ICU intensivists and fellows at AHMC are among the top users of UpToDate.

“Our ICU patient outcomes may be attributed to of the use of best practices and guidance found in UpToDate, as evidenced by a downward trend in our ICU mortality ratio,” says Dr. Jimenez.

“For example, if an ICU intensivist needs to review certain topics, be it about an illness, diagnostics, or differential diagnosis, and especially when they encounter these topics for the first time, they turn to UpToDate. Fast and easy access to reliable information keeps them on top of their game. “

As part of AHMC’s Intensivist Program, whenever the multidisciplinary team does their bedside teaching, rounds, and endorsements with trainees (fellows), they require them to use UpToDate to search for answers.

Latest Evidence to Treat COVID-19 Patients

As COVID-19 rapidly spread across the globe, physicians required regular and trusted updates about the infection and its treatment. AHMC’s multidisciplinary healthcare team relied on UpToDate during the height of the pandemic for the latest evidence and information to support their clinical decisions.

“When our healthcare staff is introduced to UpToDate, and therefore gains access to the most current clinical information, care becomes harmonized rather than varied.”

Consequently, by following the latest evidence and recommendations from world-renowned experts, AHMC is better able to provide patients with the best quality care — a top reason why AHMC decided to include UpToDate in its innovation line-up.

“We conducted a health technology assessment and end-user evaluation to support our decision, and we are happy about UpToDate content, graphical presentations, and its use of the GRADE, Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development and Evaluation, approach,” says Dr. Jimenez.

Another important benefit is that the content in UpToDate and Lexicomp®, the clinical drug information solution from Wolters Kluwer, is harmonized to ensure that doctors and pharmacists get consistent recommendations across drug dosage, interactions, and other critical information. According to Dr. Jimenez, UpToDate is well-received by AHMC’s clinicians, who appreciate the tool’s ease of use, organization, depth and breadth of systematic reviews, and its accessibility in mobile devices.

Dr. Jimenez believes other organizations can benefit from using UpToDate the same way AHMC has.

“The intensive and regularly updated information in its database helps to improve patient care. Subscribing to UpToDate is the first step,” she says.

“Clinical effectiveness assessment needs structure and processes to scrutinize the results and disseminate the findings in terms of performance and lessons learned, planning for service or practice modification, and re-measurement. Its purpose, therefore, is not only to provide assurance but also to suggest ways in which to improve.”

“The ICU intensivists also use UpToDate® to check if there are new guidelines on process measures for the ICU as well as to determine how fast to lower FiO2 in ventilated COVID-19 patients. Our Emergency doctors likewise refer to UpToDate for COVID-19 treatment updates, for example, the management of ARDS and for use of high-flow nasal cannulas. Furthermore, we consulted the literature when we created the hospital policy on protected code blue, which resulted in an improvement in our healthcare worker safety.”

Current Clinical Information Helps Reduce Care Variability

Variability in care is one of the most glaring problems faced by hospitals around the globe as well as in the Philippines.

“At least 80 percent of patient safety events are related to outdated practices and lack of collaborative care processes,” reveals Dr. Jimenez. “Medical departments, nurses, and allied health groups sometimes do not blend seamlessly with regard to clinical decisions and patients are often the ones who suffer.”

About Asian Hospital and Medical Center

Asian Hospital and Medical Center (AHMC) was founded on a vision to provide the Filipino people with high quality medical services on par with international standards. With a 296-bed capacity on 17,250 square meters, AHMC was specially designed to provide a sanctuary that ensures the safety of every patient, guest, and staff. With over 1,000 doctors trained in various specialties at the world’s top institutions, more than 400 highly skilled nurses, and 1,000 employees and staff, AHMC continuously provides “innovations in healthcare for an unforgettable healing experience.”