

Case Study

Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital

- A part of the Detroit Medical Center
- Affiliated with Wayne State University Medical School
- Using VelocityEHS Chemical Management since 2009



Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital Saves Time and Money with VelocityEHS

Located directly northwest of Detroit, Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital is a leading provider of cancer treatment, surgery, and cardiac care to local residents. It is part of the larger Detroit Medical Center (DMC), a system of healthcare providers running throughout the region, and is affiliated with Wayne State University School of Medicine —the largest single-campus medical school in the United States, and home to six labs.

For many years, Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital and the DMC labs relied on physical binders full of paper safety data sheets to meet their HazCom and chemical safety requirements. However, back in 2009 when OSHA proposed modifications to the Hazard Communication Standard to align with GHS, the hospital and labs decided moving to a cloud-based compliance solution would position them for success during the many regulatory changes ahead.

James A. Williams, Director of Laboratory Operations at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, explains the transition.

"Ensuring chemical safety and compliance has always been a top priority for us," says Mr. Williams, "but our paper SDS system was really bogging us down. Trying to keep up was nearly impossible. We used to have 'update parties' where we would gather fifty or sixty manuals at a time and update them. It was a constant fight to have it done. It feels like there were always [SDS] manuals around everywhere. We were hungry for any kind of system that would help provide these updates for us automatically."

Mr. Williams says that the looming transition to GHS was also a central factor in his organization's move.

"I've been in the industry for over 40 years, and I remember all the challenges when SDSs were first required back in the 80's," explains Mr. Williams. "I knew that GHS would strain our current way of doing things. We needed to get on top of that."

The DMC lab system has over 800 employees, apart from the hospitals. Mr. Williams reports that he decided the best way to make the case for VelocityEHS Chemical Management on a larger scale was to first adopt it for his lab.

"I thought VelocityEHS was the best electronic provider, and I went to my committee to make the case," says Mr. Williams. "Because I'm in the lab, I decided to start there. Our lab instruments use many chemicals. I explained to management how we needed regularly updated SDSs for all of them, and how that would get worse with GHS. It's true that most of the chemicals we use are not hazardous, but a few are very hazardous."

After getting buy-in from management and adopting VelocityEHS Chemical Management, Mr. Williams says his lab began to realize benefits immediately. Adoption eventually expanded to the entire DMC lab system and all of Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital.

"Let me start by saying the best part is how VelocityEHS Chemical Management continually updates our SDS library," says Mr. Williams. "That's been the biggest benefit. We're able to pull up any information we need, and know it's current. All of our labs, and now the whole hospital, really appreciate that feature."

Mr. Williams says his staff feels more confident during inspections and certifications thanks to their new system.

"Now we're quite comfortable during OSHA inspections," explains Mr. Williams. "When they come in, I simply say we have VelocityEHS Chemical Management, and their eyes light up. The inspectors are familiar with the product. We're able to pull up all the information we need to, and the inspectors can see that. I'm also able to go into the product when inspectors are here and generate reports. It works great for that too."

Mr. Williams concludes by noting that his organization had saved both time and money with the move.



"Expense is always an issue for healthcare providers today," says Mr. Williams. "The marketplace is changing and everybody needs to watch the bottom line. The amount of time we save by using VelocityEHS Chemical Management results in a real cost savings for my department. Add that to the fact that it helps us stay ready for inspections, and potentially avoid citations and financial penalties, and it's just great. A real win."

Hospitals and Labs Find a Trusted Partner in VelocityEHS

From small stand-alone hospitals to multi-state healthcare systems, VelocityEHS has a proven track record of success helping healthcare providers of all types reduce risk, improve efficiencies, and move toward compliance. The sheer variety of substances requiring safety data sheets on medical campuses can be staggering. Add elements like onsite labs, medical schools, and interconnected systems of care — not to mention challenges associated with the Joint Commission and other accrediting firms — and you've got the recipe for a very challenging safety and compliance environment!

Let VelocityEHS help. Our suite of solutions is trusted by healthcare providers across the country who know our regularly-updated library of safety data sheets, the largest in the industry, makes it easy to provide required HazCom information that keeps your locations compliant and your employees and patients safe. We understand chemical management in the healthcare industry. From looking up common chemicals to managing and tracking substances across multiple medical campus locations, we can help you keep things running smoothly and safely!

Benefits of VelocityEHS Chemical Management

Millions of SDSs at Your Fingertips

24/7 access to the industry's leading database of safety data sheets ensures your company's SDS / MSDS library is complete, up-to-date and in compliance.

Simplify Compliance

Easy-to-use tools help you meet key requirements of hazard communication (OSHA / WHMIS / GHS) including, hazard determination, Right-to-Know access, labeling, safe chemical handling, PPE and more.

Mobile Access

Our online accounts are mobile optimized, and our SDS / Chemical Management mobile app— available for free download on the App Store® and Google Play™— makes it possible to access SDSs and chemical inventory information offline, when internet connectivity is limited. With these mobile capabilities, critical chemical safety information is always at your fingertips.

Enhanced Chemical Management

Robust chemical management tools, including our chemical mapping feature, give you greater container-level control over the location, status and risks associated with chemical products in your facility. Plus, the SDS / Chemical Management app makes it possible to quickly scan container barcodes, QR codes and UPC codes to retrieve and manage container and other chemical inventory information from the field.

Regulatory Compliant

Multiple back-up options means your system meets OSHA, WHMIS and other regulatory requirements for electronic safety data sheet / chemical management.

Quick ROI & Low Cost of Ownership

All of our Chemical Management accounts pay for themselves by eliminating time-consuming, manual administrative tasks; plus, there's no software to install or maintain and you get immediate access to new features and enhancements.

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*James A. Williams, Director of Laboratory Operations
Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital*

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