

# Why Outsource E/MPI Clean-Up and Management?

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*Is your hospital converting to a new health information system or merging systems with other facilities? Like other provider organizations, perhaps you are planning or implementing an Electronic Health Record (EHR) or a new Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS). Is your institution on the cutting edge, contemplating or participating in a Health Information Exchange (HIE) or Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO)? Ensuring the effectiveness of these IT initiatives requires an organization to maximize the data integrity of its enterprise master patient index (EMPI) by identifying the duplicate records, correcting them and addressing their causes.*

## **But Who Has the Time?**

In today's dynamic health care environment, HIM managers don't have adequate time to devote to the myriad of issues demanding their attention. HIM department resources are focused on completing the normal departmental functions vital to the daily operation of the health care facility (i.e. analysis, coding and abstracting and information retrieval/release). Adding a large MPI clean-up project can tax your management resources and overload existing employees. All too often, when hospital employees are assigned to the duplicate reconciliation task, they are pulled away from the clean-up to address more immediate needs. Mistakes occur and reconciliation efforts are prolonged. The timeline for data reconciliation is limited, driven by the need to get an EHR or other systems online.

## **Just Associates-Your E/MPI Clean-Up Solution**

Outsourcing patient identity management makes sense for hospitals and other health care facilities. You can avoid overburdening

your own employees, who, after all, may not have the expertise to undertake large-scale MPI clean-up projects. You avoid the time and learning curve that it takes to get your staff up to speed on appropriate processes and procedures. For example, the tricky "validity" review—the critical decision process to determine if two potential duplicate records really belong to the same patient—is only an easy problem to resolve when the data elements exactly match. Unfortunately, most duplicate records in your system contain data elements that are slightly different. An employee whose time is temporarily diverted to cleaning up the MPI might not have the experience or insight to resolve such data discrepancy issues. Outsourcing your EMPI clean-up increases the chances of your data reconciliation project being completed correctly and on time.

You can further increase your odds of getting the job done right and on time by selecting Just Associates. We are patient data integrity experts; it is what we do and all we do. Our staff brings strong project management discipline to all of our MPI clean-up projects,

along with a history of completing projects within defined timelines and budgets. Our managers dig deep to uncover the causes of your duplicate record issues. We possess in-depth knowledge of E/MPI system configurations and settings and MPI database models. We understand interfaces between systems as well as how information flow can affect other departments' systems. We use this knowledge to help uncover the root causes of data discrepancies and improve the quality of your E/MPI.

Our *IDManage*®- Ongoing, Outsourced E/MPI Management services help you maintain the integrity of your EMPI. It is not enough that you identify and resolve your patient data integrity issues and clean-up the duplicate records. A diligent approach is needed to maintain the integrity of your EMPI's data over time. Whether it is for immediate short term support or long term ongoing maintenance, making use of Just Associates' trained, experienced staff can allow you to meet your ongoing EMPI integrity goals while minimizing the burden on your department.

### **With Our Services, You Get:**

**Fully Trained, Experienced Staff** - Our staff of Patient Identity Experts all receive extensive, ongoing training on the critical "validity" decision-making process. This extensive training gives us better control of the quality of their output. Additionally, our staff can remotely access your hospital systems minimizing the disruption to your department. Maintaining a fully trained, experienced staff also allow us to quickly ramp up to staff even the largest projects in a short amount of time.

**Best Practices** - We bring a wealth of HIM and MPI knowledge to the table. Included in this arsenal is best practice expertise for correcting duplicate MRNs garnered from years of experience completing MPI data reconciliation projects across the nation, in every major hospital information system and many clinical and ancillary information systems.

**Knowledge Transfer** - Our project managers have a wealth of knowledge concerning patient identity data integrity and MPI duplicate clean-up processes and procedures. Our managers glean information about the facility's data during the clean-up project and freely share this knowledge with our clients. In addition, all processes and procedures are documented for the client's use after completion of the reconciliation project. This assures that you will benefit from our services long after the project is completed.

**Quality Assurance** - We employ strict QA processes and employ dedicated QA Specialists to ensure that you receive the same high quality results for which we are known. Just Associates brings value to the equation, tailoring solutions to meet your needs. Your organization will benefit from the high-quality and cost-effective alternative we bring to patient identity management. We'll not only make sure the data running through your new systems is clean; we'll show you how to keep it clean.

**Our Services**- Just Associates' portfolio of services includes: MPI Clean-up, Data Integration/Migration Consulting, MPI/EMPI and HIE Consulting, Outsourced MPI

Management, Patient Access Consulting and software solutions.

We rid our customers' systems of duplicate records by implementing process and technology to identify and merge existing duplicates and prevent creation of new ones. Our unique combination of service and technology helps customers achieve and maintain a duplicate-free Master Patient Index. We apply our unique perspective on patient data quality and the electronic linking of patient data to help you identify the best solution for your specific needs.

## About Just Associates

Just Associates provides consulting services that decrease data integrity issues and minimize the ongoing costs of maintaining patient data quality. We focus on helping healthcare organizations identify and resolve these issues and ensure accurate patient matching.

## For More Information

[www.justassociates.com](http://www.justassociates.com)

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