



EQ2 Part of AAMI CMMS Collaborative in Effort for Standardization of Medical Device Failure Codes

White Paper on “Optimizing the CMMS Failure Code Field” Details the Outcomes

Camarillo, CA, October 26, 2020 - With hospitals and industry leaders all collecting data in their own unique ways, it has been all but impossible for healthcare technology management (HTM) professionals to assess their industry as a whole. So EQ2, LLC (EQ2), industry peers and thought leaders at the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI) collaborated to standardize how medical device information is configured. They outlined an agreed-upon method for optimizing and standardizing failure codes in a recent white paper.

The white paper, [*Optimizing the CMMS Failure Code Field*](#), was sponsored by the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI) and is now available for a free download. It represents the insights of EQ2 and five other leading computerized maintenance management system (CMMS) suppliers in a CMMS Collaborative.

“This is about collecting more consistent and actionable data,” said Carol Davis-Smith, vice chair of clinical engineering of the AAMI Board of Directors and principal of Carol Davis-Smith & Associates.

An HTM thought leader and consultant, Davis-Smith helped facilitate the discussions between the CMMS Collaborative and the HTM community that ultimately led to the new white paper. She explained that the CMMS Collaborative chose to focus on standardizing how HTM departments handle failure codes because of how important this code field is for establishing and assessing the performance of medical device maintenance programs.

“In the short term, if everyone treats failure codes the same way, CMMS suppliers can implement their platforms faster. This will enable healthcare technology managers to collect consistent data and begin internal benchmarking to enhance the management of their medical device inventory,” Davis-Smith said.

In the long term, healthcare technology managers will also finally be able to answer every executive’s million-dollar question: “How do we compare to others?”

Until now, being able to compare the performance of a medical device maintenance program or the reliability of a device network to others has been difficult. However, if everyone is recording and sharing their data in the same way, recognizing what is a benchmark for ideal performance and safety will be universally easier.

“It’s data that’s not only valuable for planning, but also for recalls and regulation,” added Danielle McGeary, vice president of HTM at AAMI. “Let’s say you’re seeing a ton of battery failures in a fleet of

infusion pumps three months after a battery replacement. You're going to want to see if other hospitals are running into the same problem. If everyone is documenting these failures in the same way, you have concrete, actionable data."

Matt Baretich of Baretich Engineering, co-facilitator of the failure code white paper, explained that this isn't the first time the HTM community has discussed pooling maintenance data for everyone's betterment. However, it has been difficult to get everyone to agree about how to proceed.

"What makes this effort different is that we've got the suppliers who build the tools that use these codes agreeing to this standardization," he said. "Their customers are looking for a best practice for using these deeply customizable management systems, and now there is one."

EQ2 will educate customers on the benefits of using the standardized list of failure codes and work with those that are interested to transition to them. The company's CMMS is designed specifically for use by hospitals and is known as [HEMS® product \(Hospital Equipment Management System\)](#)

"There is no interest on anybody's part to standardize *everything* or make the CMMS software identical," Baretich added. "Instead, this shared effort is focused on code fields that, if standardized, can lead to clear applications of data, and ultimately, better ways to ensure patient safety."

About EQ2, LLC

The EQ2 HEMS CMMS software was developed for and is sold exclusively to hospitals for managing their medical and facility assets. HEMS is available as a SaaS subscription service or for license installs on hospital-owned servers. EQ2 LLC has offices in Camarillo, CA and in Charlotte, NC. See www.eq2llc.com for more info.

About AAMI

AAMI (www.aami.org) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1967. It is a diverse community of more than 9,000 healthcare technology professionals united by one important mission—supporting the healthcare community in the development, management, and use of safe and effective health technology. AAMI is the primary source of consensus standards, both national and international, for the medical device industry, as well as practical information, support, and guidance for health technology and sterilization professionals.

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