

NorthShore is Ready for Next Decade in 30 Days



To streamline processes within the clinical research projects, NorthShore wanted a collaboration portal where project teams can keep track of activities, contacts, documents and all other project related elements.



Solution Overview

Industry
Healthcare/Medical Research

Solution
SharePoint based Research Project Collaboration Portal. Completed with automated workflows and rollups.

Benefit
Streamlined research project processes, automated project site creation and effective document, content and contact list management tools

Technologies Used

- SharePoint
- Windows SharePoint Services (WSS)
- MS Office
- CorasWorks

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SharePoint Solution Provides Collaboration on Clinical Researches

NorthShore University HealthSystem (formerly ENH) Research Institute's **Center for Outcomes, Research and Education (CORE)** is a national leader in the application of clinical research to improve patient care and influence policy. Via **CORE**, **NorthShore's** research on outcomes and effectiveness evaluates how various treatment strategies affect results essential to patients, including quality of life. With strong academic ties to the **Institute for Healthcare Studies (IHS)** at **Northwestern University** and **Northwestern University Medical School**, they make state-of-the-art disease management possible.

Business Challenge

CORE has many projects involving researchers across the country. Researchers are split into teams based on a particular area of focus or specialty. The existing collaboration portal for research projects was not centralized, thus, the overall information on research projects could not be rolled up and/or down to different views for various audiences.

Within the organization, each team holds regular meetings which produces information needing to be shared with teammates and others outside the team. All meeting information must be permanently maintained for auditing and reporting purposes. The government requires that all documentation be kept in its original state for auditing purposes. These documents are not to be edited, and the original documents must be kept in tack. On the other hand, document versioning was needed and required for all working documents in progress.

NorthShore needed the initial implementation of the solution within 30 days.

Solution

NorthShore believed each project portal would have common functionality requirements. After the **NIHToolbox** project portal was to be created, it served as the foundation for other project portals. Each team portal was created under a root level main access portal. The project portals were secured and only available to authorized project members.

NorthShore partnered with **Captaré** to create the **NIHToolbox** solution. **Captaré** implemented **SharePoint** and **Windows SharePoint Services** as the foundation. Using the **SharePoint** platform and **CorasWorks**, **Captaré** created an automatic rollup structure providing the relevant and informative views on the project elements. Given **NorthShore's** global presence in multiple locations and involvement of various departments with different roles, the research projects needed to be maintained on the user, team and project level through effective dashboards.

- **The right SharePoint architecture is established for the next 5-10 years.**
- **Processes within the global research projects are streamlined with NIHToolbox collaboration portal.**

Benefits

Within 30 days, **NorthShore** received a research project portal having:

- Multi-departmental, multi-location collaboration tools ready for global access
- Documentation for internal and external use (content management)
- Aggregation of project elements on various levels through rollups and views
- Project activity status tracking
- Contact list management

The new collaboration portal, being powered by a **SharePoint** architecture superior for years to come, is indispensable for everyday work of hundreds of **NorthShore** researchers throughout the world.