

MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ORGANIZATION:

Mississippi State Department of Health
www.msdh.ms.gov

STATE HEALTH OFFICER:

Mary Currier, M.D., M.P.H.

INDUSTRY:

Health Care

BUSINESS CHALLENGE/NEEDS:

- Meet new federal mandates on emergency preparedness
- Create and run an efficient warehouse to hold emergency medical supplies
- Quickly distribute medical materials to communities across the state in response to national emergencies and natural disasters
- Replace inadequate inventory management system with one that could handle a large amount of inventory
- Reduce unnecessary spending and lost assets

SOLUTION:

- Fishbowl Inventory as a standalone solution

RESULTS:

- Mississippi is now recognized as a national leader in receiving, distributing and dispensing federal medical supplies
- MSDH received a 99% efficiency rating for its inventory management system from federal partners
- Using Fishbowl Inventory, MSDH quickly delivered supplies to 374 institutions in response to the H1N1 flu virus in 2009
- MSDH reduced asset losses and increased unused-asset recovery
- Fishbowl Inventory cut costs by eliminating the need for 24-hour staff members to manage inventory
- MSDH can now track inventory levels and reorder materials in real time

With Fishbowl Inventory®, Mississippi State Department of Health is Recognized as a National Leader in Receiving, Distributing and Dispensing SNS Assets.

After Hurricane Katrina, the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) discovered its emergency warehouse needed improvements to meet federal mandates and a solution to improve the limitations with its current inventory management system. They discovered that while they were confident in their ability to efficiently respond to public health and health care facilities' needs, they needed to improve their ability to control and manage inventory to prevent asset loss.

After researching numerous options, MSDH implemented a new inventory management system, Fishbowl Inventory, which met all federal requirements and addressed all of their specific needs as well.

With the lessons of Hurricane Katrina behind them and Fishbowl Inventory fully implemented, MSDH was able to immediately set up inventory control within their emergency warehouse within the early days of the 2009 H1N1 influenza outbreak. Utilizing the standalone system, they were able to deploy pandemic influenza assets to various facilities in a timely and efficient manner. The success of the emergency warehouse operations hinged primarily on the inventory management system and the team that operated it.

Business Challenge & Needs

Federal mandates require that each state implement plans to place and operate an emergency warehouse. As part of those mandates, public health institutions such as Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) were given the responsibility to receive, distribute and dispense federal Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) material during major public health disasters. SNS assets are provided to help states and localities save lives, prevent disease, and facilitate basic health care services when there is a widespread terrorist attack, a natural disaster or an industrial accident.

During disasters, one of the greatest challenges MSDH faced was the



Flooding from Hurricane Katrina

ability to rapidly and safely provide antibiotics, antivirals, chemical antidotes, antitoxins, life support pharmaceuticals, vaccines, intravenous administration supplies, airway maintenance supplies, masks and medical/surgical items to communities in Mississippi.

“After our experience during Hurricane Katrina, we were determined to find an inventory management system that would exceed federal expectations and enable us to better serve the people in our state in the event of another disaster,” said Meg Pearson, PharmD, MS, director, MSDH Pharmacy. *“Effective control of inventory is essential when you respond to emergencies.”*

The Solution

MSDH clinical staff worked with database administrators to research inventory management systems that could effectively manage assets, meet government regulation requirements and operate in a mobile environment when needed. Based on its extensive features, MSDH set up a pilot program for Fishbowl Inventory. The pilot tested its capability to receive, distribute and maintain inventory control for SNS assets. Among the long list of requirements tested,

some of the key factors were Fishbowl Inventory’s ability to recover unused SNS assets, use FIFO inventory management by expiration date, be compatible with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) delimited file, create custom reports, track asset movement between sites, assign order priority and apportion for multiple events

After successfully completing the pilot, Fishbowl Inventory was implemented as Mississippi’s primary inventory management system for SNS.

“Using lessons learned during our response to Hurricane Katrina, we sought an inventory management system with a significant list of attributes we needed,” said Pear-

son. *“Fishbowl was able to deliver on all points.”*

“Fishbowl gave us the ability to monitor item levels and create reports based on custom needs and see items at a glance in order to prevent asset loss.”

*Meg Pearson, PharmD, MS,
Director MSDH Pharmacy*

Mississippi holds a minimum of three drills per year to test its warehouse management of SNS assets and to further increase efficiencies and ensure team members are proficient with the system. In addition, pharmacy staff, assisting in operations of the emergency warehouse,

requested use of Fishbowl Inventory to manage inventory in their daily operations to track state and federal stock antiviral medications for the MSDH Office of Emergency Planning and Response.

The Results

In April 2009, all states were required to activate emergency warehouses for receiving pandemic influenza antiviral medications and support materials in response to

the H1N1 influenza outbreak. Using Fishbowl Inventory, MSDH was able to immediately set up inventory control within the emergency warehouse, key in pandemic influenza assets, create kits of material to service nursing homes and hospitals, and distribute materials to hospitals, nursing homes, and ambulance services.

The benefits were immediately recognized:

- *Efficient and confident inventory control that meets all federal requirements.*
- *Cost savings and improvements by creating an efficient workflow (24-hour staffing was not required to manage inventory).*
- *374 institutions quickly and accurately received antiviral medications or influenza support materials.*
- *Reduced asset loss.*
- *Expedited medical supply distribution process; tracking and reordering done in real time.*
- *Ability to create pre-populated customer database, standard and customized reports to operate in a mobile environment.*

Utilizing Fishbowl Inventory, Mississippi is now recognized as a national leader in operations related to receiving, distributing and dispensing SNS assets. In fact, MSDH recently received the distinguished score of 99 percent from federal

partners for SNS asset-handling capabilities.

“Fishbowl has proven itself as an excellent inventory management system for our emergency warehouse operations during large-scale public health disasters,” said Pearson. *“We would not be able to provide needed medical assistance to our residents in such an efficient way without it.”*

About Mississippi State Department of Health

The Mississippi State Department of Health directs a wide range of essential health services throughout the state’s 82 counties and nine public health districts. From safe drinking water to cancer prevention programs, its mission is to promote and protect the health of all Mississippians. For more information on MSDH and its programs, visit: www.msdh.ms.gov.

About Fishbowl

*F*ishbowl Inventory is the No. 1 requested inventory management solution for seamless integration with QuickBooks, and is a popular standalone solution for organizations or enterprises looking to track assets. For QuickBooks users, it provides the same advanced features, flexibility, and mobile inventory management control larger organizations enjoy. Available from www.fishbowlinventory.com or a growing number of Fishbowl sales partners.



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