



Misty Robotics for Adair County Health System

Background

Adair County Health System (ACHS) is located in Greenfield, IA. From the time it was opened in 1950, the Hospital has provided health care services to area residents, friends, and family members. Today ACHS has a 17 bed CAH (Critical Access Hospital) and two clinic locations. With 150 employees, they are committed to the philosophy that they have an obligation to provide their community with the best possible care through the best available resources.

Selecting Misty as a Temperature Screening Assistant

The selection of the Misty Robotics Temperature Screening Assistant stemmed from the pure research efforts of Gary Bateman, CIO of Adair County Health System. When the pandemic hit and they knew they needed to screen everyone, they had their elective surgery nurses take on the job. That worked for a time, but when they needed to get back to their day job, an alternative solution was required. Gary acquired a thermal camera that worked but found it to be very basic and needed more capabilities like reporting. Being from an IT background, he considered building their own system or partnering to do so, but that path proved impractical. He also looked at the kiosk solutions in the market. In the course of his research he discovered the Misty II robot with the Temperature Screening Assistant Skill.



Misty On the Job



Misty is at work at the Critical Access Hospital and the larger clinic, where there are two Mistys on the job. The two at the clinic are set up to accommodate height differences in those coming through. One of the Misty robots is set up for adults walking in, while the other Misty handles kids and those in wheelchairs. In both cases Misty is positioned at the front door. Understanding thermal camera technology, Gary shared that location is important. Thermal cameras will pick up other heat sources such as a heater, window with sun shining through it, etc., so he has worked to position Misty to ensure she can perform at her best. She is primarily screening patients and visitors but also screens employees occasionally as they come through.



Misty greets both people, who have gotten to know her and the process, as well as net new. Anywhere from 20 to 50 people are screened in a day by Misty. They have her doing both health screening questions and temperature screening. Two questions are used at the clinic, and three are used at the hospital. The third at the hospital is an immediate triage question, whereby Misty asks if the individual is there for an emergency situation. If the answer is “yes”, Misty has them immediately proceed in.

“ This is an innovative solution, but not intimidating to patients. ”

- Gary Bateman
Adair County Hospital, CIO

Key Benefits

On the safety front, they like the contactless aspect of the solution. With no need for touching a screen, there is no need for someone to wipe Misty down. A drawback to kiosk solutions was having someone watching the whole thing and sanitizing after each use. Needless to say, the true automation realized with Misty contributes to the rapid ROI as does not having to hire a full-time employee to manually do the screening with a digital thermometer. Gary shared, “Misty as a temperature screener has a great ROI. For us the payback was about 2 ½ months.”

Another key aspect of Misty’s value is her higher accuracy. Based on their earlier experience using thermal cameras, Gary was impressed that Misty’s implementation of the technology is more accurate than what they had been using.

The Misty II robots, renamed Covvy, Eve and Tessa, are now a part of their crew, letting employees get back to their day jobs and easing the burden of temperature screening on staff and visitors alike.