

Sana Klinikum Biberach on its way to a Smart Hospital with ViewPoint™ 6

Ultrasound reporting and workflow simplified



“We are facing one of the biggest imaginable upheavals in the healthcare sector.”

Priv. Doz. Dr. med. Dominic Varga

Chief Physician of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department
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Digital and connected thanks to ViewPoint 6

In the age of digitalization and automation, the Smart Hospital is a vision that many hospitals in Germany are striving for. At Sana Klinikum Biberach, Priv. Doz. Dr. med. Dominic Varga, specialist in obstetrics and gynecology and chief medical director of the obstetrics department, and his team are working to make this vision a reality. In spring 2018, he implemented the reporting and image management software ViewPoint 6 from GE HealthCare in the OB/GYN department and used it to digitalize all workflows – from anamnesis, medical consultations, follow-up examinations, breast and abdominal ultrasound examinations to surgical interventions. The advantages of the software for treating physicians at the hospital and their colleagues in private practices or midwives are of enormous importance and make ViewPoint 6 a fundamental part of the digitalization process and ultimately serve for the good of the patients.

Focus on patients

Sana Klinikum Biberach is in a digital upheaval. In the new clinic building, which was completed in September 2021, all infrastructural requirements are created in the sense of patient focus and the associated holistic “smart” care beyond the clinic’s own clinical structures. Innovative solutions are developed and implemented by a digital workgroup.

The hospital offers its patients short distances and networked structures as well as fast access to the various specialties and care areas – from outpatient presentation to inpatient/outpatient treatment and follow-up care. At the same time, the use of modern software and medical technology will further digitalize and optimize processes – for the benefit of the patients and to relieve the strain on the hospital staff. The goal is to create a Smart Hospital that offers a high degree of digitalization and the highest possible comfort for its patients.

For me, ViewPoint 6 is by far the easiest to use option to digitize a hospital.

At the women's health hospital in Biberach, the chief physicians Dr. med. Dominic Varga and Dr. med. Steffen Fritz and their teams, offer patients a wide range of medical services in the fields of gynecology and obstetrics. The clinic is a certified breast center and focuses on minimally invasive surgery and obstetrics. In 2019, Dr. Varga and his team attended around 870 births, including the associated consultations, check-ups and follow-up examinations. "We see ourselves as a medical service provider and not as a classical healthcare provider," says Dr. Varga, describing the philosophy of the OB/GYN clinic, which will thus also become more attractive for potential applicants from a new generation of doctors. Dr. Varga sees an opportunity for medicine, particularly in the changed use of technologies: "Pregnant women and expectant parents today have different demands on the examination and the associated information than a few years ago. We meet these needs with offers such as a video consultation hour or the possibility of password-protected log-in from home via the Tricefy App.² We offer our patients a kind of digital patient file that chronologically displays all relevant findings," explains Dr. Varga. Old-fashioned and rigid are attributes that do not fit the gynecological clinic at the Sana Klinikum Biberach. The medical and nursing team is largely made up of digital natives who are longing for the modernization and digitalization of German hospital structures. Treading new paths and further developing digital structures is a matter close to Dr. Varga's heart. As a member of the Digital Advisory Board at the hospital, he works together with colleagues from IT and interested medical colleagues to implement the vision of a Smart Hospital. This also includes the implementation of new procedures such as a video consultation in obstetrics.

On the way to a Smart Hospital with ViewPoint 6, Tricefy² and Trium¹

Flat hierarchies and short communication channels are just as much a part of Sana Klinikum Biberach's daily practice as the use of modern software and medical technology. This is also the case in the OB/GYN clinic, where the documentation software ViewPoint 6 with interfaces to Trium¹ CTG Online and Tricefy² are in use.

"For me, ViewPoint 6 is by far the easiest way to digitize an OB/GYN clinic, because it offers a strong basis for data exchange, collaborative work and knowledge transfer. ViewPoint 6 forms the digital backbone of our department and covers the majority of our workflows. For prenatal, gynecological and breast ultrasound examinations, the name of the patient is transferred via DICOM[®] worklist to the ultrasound systems used, regardless of manufacturer. The examining colleague sends images, video sequences, and measurement data as well as DICOM 3D/4D raw data back to the system."

"These transferred images are finally available again in ViewPoint 6 and can be integrated into medical reports. This makes our work incredibly efficient, as all relevant stored data and images are available in a fraction of a second."

By storing the complete anamnesis, information on previous births, existing diseases or fears of the patient, ViewPoint 6 also provides optimal support in monitoring the course of the pregnancy and allows the team to respond individually and specifically to the needs of the women.

More time for the patient due to reduced administration efforts

This is also important in the emergency room: If a pregnant woman comes to the hospital on the weekend, she receives ultrasound images and a report via Tricefy² immediately after the examination and can call them up with two clicks at her next appointment with her gynecologist. "This is an enormous time saver: when the emergency department is literally overflowing, it is a huge relief when we no longer have to print out every report, look up the colleague's number and fax the report."

A further plus for efficiency for Dr. Varga is provided by the ViewPoint 6 built-in text modules: easily modifiable text modules are available for preoperative examinations and operations themselves as well as for all ultrasound examinations and consultations with pregnant women. "This is a real time saver and makes work easier," enthuses Dr. Varga. "ViewPoint 6 is integrated directly into the OR, so that I can open the appropriate text module directly after the operation, modify it according to the patient and procedure, and insert the image gallery. The reports are transferred to the Hospital Information System and are thus already available on the day of the operation in 99 percent of the cases."

The data obtained during a consultation, such as growth curves, are entered into ViewPoint 6 and are thus also available to referring physicians for discussing findings or obtaining a second opinion. "The future must simply be that the patient, regardless of which hospital she is in, has access to her data. ViewPoint 6 and Tricefy² are therefore excellent complements for us."

The new information approach has been well received: In total, the hospital has already transmitted reports and information via Tricefy² to approximately 400 pregnant women. "Patients are thus more informed and in a certain way also more mature – because they finally receive their findings and related data from the imaging

system itself. In the next step, Dr. Varga also plans to store information material and send it via the app. "Conceivable topics here include behavior in gestational diabetes or infections."

"I also see it as our task as a healthcare provider to provide relevant information in a condensed and comprehensible form. We process the usual guidelines and letters of recommendation so that patients can rely on receiving information based on the latest knowledge," explains Dr. Varga.

Simplified documentation and birth reports

"Under birth, the central CTG monitoring software Trium¹ CTG Online offers an easy and reliable possibility to monitor the pregnant women in the delivery rooms and on the ward. This is made possible by consistent browser-based and manufacturer-independent device support. With the help of FIGO-based CTG analysis, we can react quickly to critical developments," says Dr. Varga about the advantages. During birth, the partogram is documented in Trium CTG Online and the data is transferred to ViewPoint 6, so that double entries can be avoided and a digital signature is possible. Currently, around 80 percent of midwives use Trium¹ in a resource-saving manner without printing out the individual CTGs. The birth is finally documented on ViewPoint 6. Immediately after the patient is discharged, the follow-up midwife already has the report/documentation available via Tricefy² and the patient can also receive it via the app. These measures simplify quality control and possible processing of the birth by the patient. "A birth is a decisive experience, the explanation and processing of which is extremely important."



On the way to the Smart Hospital: The new building of Sana Klinikum Biberach

“If desired, the patient can receive all data relating to the birth digitally,” says Dr. Varga. After the puerperium, all screenings and measurements as well as values (blood pressure, HB, bilirubin of the child, received hearing screening, pulse oximetry, etc.) are stored in ViewPoint 6.

“I am really proud that a large number of the midwives have already embraced Tricefy.”² Shortly after the implementation of ViewPoint 6 in 2018, the colleagues started working with the new program with an enormous amount of naturalness. “When it comes to the acceptance of new software, the appealing user interface as well as an easy operability are factors that should not be underestimated. In ViewPoint 6, this has succeeded very well. It is widely intuitive, tidy, and clearly designed,” says Dr. Varga. The modern user interface is similar to that of a tablet or smartphone. “Even our midwives can no longer imagine what it was like to work without Trium¹ and ViewPoint 6.”

For Dr. Varga, it is clear that digital disruption will not stop at medicine, and he explains: “We are facing one of the greatest upheavals in the healthcare system imaginable. Therefore, as a physician today, I can decide to follow this path at an early stage – or to have to chase the development later on. In his opinion, the potential here in Germany has not yet been fully exploited: “I would like to see Germany become more digital. The GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) also allows the use of systems such as Tricefy² in communicating with patients. We should not be afraid of the changes and opportunities that the future brings, but rather be prepared for digital disruption. For the benefit of our patients.”

“The more efficiently and transparently we work, the more our patients benefit – and I am convinced that they will increasingly demand this in the future.”

1. Manufactured by:
Trium Analysis Online GmbH
Hohenlindener Str. 1
81677 Munich
Germany

Trium is used as an abbreviation for Trium CTG Online. Trium is a trademark of Trium Analysis Online GmbH. Not available in all countries.

2. Manufactured by:
Trice Imaging, Inc.
1343 Stratford Court
Del Mar, CA 92014
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