



Derby Teaching Hospitals: Investing in quality observations

Nursing staff at Derby Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust are using Welch Allyn® monitors to enhance the quality of observations, to spend more time actively interacting with patients, and to help deliver the best nursing possible.



Overview

Customer

Derby Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Location

Derby, UK

EMR Partners

Lorenzo & Patientrack

Customer Profile

Derby Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is one of the largest teaching hospitals in the UK, with over 1,100 beds across 2 hospitals. The Trust takes great pride in caring for patients in a clean, safe and technically advanced environment.

Key Business Outcomes

With the need for staff to work as efficiently and effectively as possible, the Trust has turned to innovative technological solutions to help staff carry out routine observations quicker, releasing nursing time back to caring for patients.

The impact: Better quality observations, improved safety, and less burden on staff

- When Derby Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust came to review its ageing fleet of blood pressure monitors, it wanted a technology that would do far more, enable new ways of working, and help nursing staff to deliver better care when carrying out crucial observations from the patient's bedside.
- Welch Allyn responded – and after a rigorous procurement process – was the only responding provider that could demonstrate effective connectivity with the trust's systems during a one day proof of concept session.
- Scoring highly in a separate evaluation for clinical acceptance, Connex® Spot Monitors were selected to take bedside digital observations to the next level, integrating with the trust's existing Patientrack electronic observations software.
- A powerful and immediately successful pilot project across two of the highest intensity wards in the hospital for frequent observations has ensued.
- All observations are captured in a single unit – staff do not require a separate tablet computer to manually record observations, and have eliminated the need for separate pieces of equipment to capture vital signs.
- Blood pressure is taken 'on the way up' – ie as the pressure builds. This means that cuff pressure only reaches the patient's blood pressure, unlike other systems which increase pressure on the patient's arm to unnecessarily high levels. Observations are consequently much more comfortable for patients and means they are less agitated, allowing for better quality observations.
- Patients are scanned for positive identification – improving patient safety and reducing clinical risk.
- The needs of dementia patients, elderly patients, and post-op patients have been better addressed.
- Nursing staff are saving time on each observation, but spending that time improving the quality of observations, more actively engaging with the patient at the bedside. Observations take an average of 3 minutes and 22 seconds on the test wards, compared to 5 minutes and 11 seconds on comparable wards without the monitors.
- High impact results in the first two wards, where staff reception has been highly positive, can now be spread across the hospital.

“This is one of the best rollouts we have ever had”

“This has had one of the biggest impacts. We can’t imagine going back to our old ways of working.”

Naomi Russ, senior sister



“You are never running around half-way through the observations, looking for a thermometer or a blood pressure cuff, as everything is integrated into the one device.”

Lynsey Heald, senior sister



“Our patients can become unwell quickly, we now know that patients get the appropriate care when they need it, because everything is correct when it goes into the system.”

“The old devices went very tight on a patient’s arm. Now that isn’t the case, it’s a lot quicker and more comfortable, meaning patients aren’t distressed, helping us to obtain more appropriate observations.”

Sophie Calladine, sister



“We are saving nursing staff time by using the new technology, and in return they can put something back into the process – quality.”

“I have been nothing but impressed with the team at Welch Allyn, they have the same ambitions as us. I feel we have got value for money with this project.”

Mark Cannell, lead nurse for clinical risk and governance



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