



Hospital

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust

Project

**To implement a new Theatre System that is paper free, accurate, reliable,
user friendly and improves efficiency of Theatre usage**

Implementation Team

Suzanne Jarvis – Care Group Manager, Theatres, Anaesthetics & Critical Care Services

Richard Shinn – Theatre Information Technician

Natalie Newman – Lead Practitioner

Lisa Faulkener – Theatre & Trauma Co-ordinator



Overview Quote

Suzanne Jarvis

Care Group Manager, Theatres, Anaesthetics & Critical Care Services



“We had a very old system previously called RESCUE. The theatre staff had to fill in paper forms that tracked the patient’s journey through theatres. Then we had somebody who had to enter that data into a very old system retrospectively. The data wasn’t very accurate; obviously it was stand alone and didn’t link to any of the other Trust systems. We would have clinical incidents with data because patients would be listed for operations and because we relied on someone inputting that data, sometimes the unit numbers would be wrong. So we had a whole heap of issues with the old system, obviously mainly clinical, paper based and just not being able to get any data out that was accurate. So we got the green light from the Trust and got to go and procure a new system. We went off with our IT colleagues to look at other Theatre Systems. We were adamant that we were going to get the best out of it, so we wanted a touchscreen, a really paper friendly, easy system so that everybody could use it in their day to day operations”.

“We then secured the money so that we could have touchscreen carts from Parity Medical and a software package called ORMIS.

“The benefits that we’ve had so far have been amazing! It’s much more user friendly and everybody loves the system!! It’s worked really, really well and I am proud of the team that delivered it. We are going to keep working towards our goal of getting rid of paper all together and using technology in our workplace.”

Key Benefits

1. Mobile touchscreen not fixed to a theatre wall can be kept close to clinical staff and patient.
2. Much easier for staff to input the information during an operation.
3. Saves time so more time can be spent with patients.
4. Saves money – 20% increase in theatre utilisation.
5. Power available 24/7 due to the hot swappable batteries.
6. In line with infection control policy and very easy to clean.

Project

“As part of the project, we decided that we wanted touch screens. So we went out to have a look what was on the market and started getting companies engaged. Parity Medical came and gave us a demonstration of their touchscreen cart. We got lots of different people to come and evaluate it. Obviously Parity Medical won hands down. At first we thought we wanted to have them fixed in every anaesthetic room and every theatre. Then when Parity Medical brought the carts in and we could see how light and manoeuvrable they were we decided to go with the carts. Actually it is much easier from a servicing point of view because if a cart goes down we can wheel it out. We then have a backup spare one as a replacement. Not that we’ve had to experience that as they have been really reliable. We haven’t had any bother with them and the batteries are fantastic. The batteries get charged up every night so we haven’t had any issues with the carts. They are really free and easy and we can move them to wherever we want. Each theatre is different and has a different set up. Some people might like the cart on the right hand side or the left so the cart enables us to put them wherever people want to have them. They also obviously move up and down so some people at times can pull a chair to them and lower them down and use the keyboard. Other times were we want them by the patient we can raise them up and use the touchscreens. So by that trial everybody was persuaded to use the touchscreen cart. It also saved us money as we didn’t have to get Scanska involved and manage our PFI to fit them. It makes it more user friendly for us so we went with the mobile carts and we are really pleased with them. They are easy to wipe down and the reliability is fantastic!!”

Solution – Parity Medical Infinity Cart

Richard Shinn

Theatre Information Technician



“We have had the carts now for about eighteen months and so far we haven’t really experienced any problems. They are very reliable, they work on Wi-Fi and so far that has worked perfectly we haven’t had any incidence of them dropping connection or anything like that. The fact that they are on wheels does mean that if there is a little problem they can be brought out to me in my office down the corridor to fix rather than us having to get IT from the other end of the hospital. Being on wheels mean that they can be moved around the theatre on either side of the bed so it suits where the surgeon is and where the staff are. The touch screen means that it is much easier for the staff to input the information while they are carrying out the operation, rather than having to do it retrospectively from a piece of paper onto a computer elsewhere”.

The touch screen works perfectly with ORMIS, it means that the information can be put in straight away in real time. We can be assured that the data quality is very high. The carts can be raised up and down so the carts can be used as desk space as well.

“The carts can be used connected to the mains or can be used with batteries. The system we have got here at the moment is that at the end of each day we plug the cart into the wall and that charges while it’s connected. During the day the cart can be pulled away from the wall and just uses battery power. So far we haven’t had an incidence where it has run out of battery during the day but they are hot swappable. It will display on the screen to say that one battery is low and that gives us a warning. We can take that one out whilst still using the cart itself. We do get 24/7 out of it. We do have an Emergency Theatre which runs 24/7, like I say; so far we haven’t had any problems with the batteries”.

Solution – Parity Medical Infinity Cart

Natalie Newman

Lead Practitioner



"We are all really pleased with ORMIS and the carts that we've got. It makes it much easier having the carts to be able to move around the theatres. The touchscreens from Parity Medical are great we are really impressed with them. They are in line with our infection control, easily wipe-able and easy to use. They are just much easier than the computers that we had before; they were a big problem with trying to clean them. It was difficult to be in line with our infection control regulations, so the new carts are great. That's been really good. The staff are all happy, the training seemed to go really well, it came in effectively quite quickly. It's made us go paperless as well now, right up until the end of our last system we were using paper copies as well. Having to check them so obviously it has created a lot less work for some of our clerical staff that were having to check all that".

"We are really pleased with it. We have had great support from Parity Medical – not that we've needed it – because the computers, as I said the carts have been great. We know that they (Parity Medical) have been there if we needed them. So, really pleased".

"Everybody has been really pleased with it – the fact that you have it on a cart and can move it around so thumbs up Parity Medical"

Conclusion

Lisa Faulkener

Theatre & Trauma Co-ordinator



“From my point of view as a Theatre and Trauma co-ordinator, it’s changed my job on many levels. Firstly the clarity and convenience of using the touch screen is good because it can give me confidence outside the theatre area that the data that has been put into the system is accurate. For example I need to upload that data nationally for best practice tariffs. That data needs to be as accurate as I can possibly get it. The convenience of the touch screen means that I can have confidence in the data that I am uploading.

Also outside of the department I can also make sure that each of the theatres (because of the colour coding system that’s used both on the perioperative screen and within the patient screen) I can make sure that each theatre is written as it should be and that we are on time and on schedule for that theatre to start and finish on time. From a trauma perspective we cannot predict acute patients when they are going to come to the hospital and what our theatre utilisation need will be in advance. So again I can look at the theatres, the appropriate theatres, I can see if they are a bit ahead of schedule. Therefore I can add cases to that list in order not only to make sure that from a financial point of view we are utilising our theatres correctly but also and I think more importantly, from a patient experience perspective. Because if I can get their procedure done quicker than we would normally anticipate, that’s only going to make for a better experience for the patient in the long term. So they are the main features for me of how the new system has enhanced my role”.

“The benefits of the cart as it is, not only can we move it from theatre to theatre or anaesthetic room to theatre, really is the little time we need to spend with it. Our time as nurses need to be spent doing patient care. We used to have a lengthy writing paper trail and sometimes free typing. The convenience of the touchscreen means that it takes two seconds to do a job that probably used to take us three or four minutes. That extra time is spent with our patients and that’s where the clinical need and requirement is”.

“The Parity Medical cart has improved the service that we can provide for several reasons. One we know there is a battery backup if we can’t plug the system in. Two it’s completely moveable so we can move it to wherever we need it to be. Three the convenience of the touchscreen in comparison to our old system where there could be a lot of lengthy re-typing and even a paper trail. Those minutes we were spending writing and completing documentation we are now spending with the patient because all we need is a quick flick of the screen and the job is then done”.

