![Healthlogistics]

Derby Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

> Derby Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust serves a population of over 600,000 people in and around Southern Derbyshire which results in around a million patients visiting each year.

THE CHALLENGE

The Trust had a number of different stock management systems for wards and theatres, which were time-consuming to manage. Like most other Trusts, Derby Teaching Hospitals needed to control spend, make savings and maximise the amount of revenue brought in through recharging of procedures. However, the reconciliation process was complex, and existing systems did not allow the Trust to develop accurate patient-level costing and financial control for stock and stock usage.

At the same time, it was difficult to trace items used on patients for recall purposes, as this also involved a slow, manual, paper-based process. To protect patient safety without taking up excessive staff time, a faster and more efficient system was needed.

THE SOLUTION

The Trust was already using Healthlogistics' catalogue and contract management service, eCat, which provides Derby Teaching Hospitals with standardised product data based on an extensive database which matches items with supplier descriptions, codes and contract prices, avoiding duplication and overpaying.

Working the Trust, Healthlogistics developed a automated General Theatre supply chain process based on Healthlogistics' hTrak stock and procedure costing system, which is underpinned by eCat's database of over 1 million barcoded items.

The solution is built around the patient and information is captured at the point of care. Using a handheld hTrak scanner, staff record details of the patient by scanning their wristband. By scanning the relevant barcodes, theatre staff then capture every single detail of the exact consumables and instruments used, prosthesis expenses, the cost of the staff involved and the actual (rather than planned) OPCS codes.

The hTrak stock management software within the theatre stock rooms detects expiring stock, avoiding wastage. Auto-replenishment software raises stock requests to both the Derby Hospitals procurement system and direct to NHS Supply Chain.

> *"Implementing Healthlogistics' hTrak system at Derby Hospitals was originally meant to just improve stock usage and control information,"* notes Kevin Downs, Director of Finance. *"It has now evolved into a system that improves patient safety in theatres and produces detailed patient-level costing information, and has created an opportunity to gain improved coding information at point of treatment."*

This solution is operational in 25 Theatres at Derby Teaching Hospitals with a further 15 specialities to go-live in June 2016.

THE BENEFITS

Stronger stock and cost control

Post-solution, the Trust has seen a saving of £300k after costs, made up from a combination of factors around stock management.

With a more efficient and streamlined stock management system, it has been possible to significantly reduce the amount of stock held, freeing up storage space. Reductions in the amount of non- stock spend of least 5-7% have been achieved – and with flagged expiry dates, wastage is also prevented.

The automated replenishment system has significantly reduced last-minute ordering, allowing orders to be grouped into as few deliveries as possible to cut down on delivery costs.

Saving staff time

With hTrak, significant clinical staff time has been saved, with around 20 minutes per week spent on ordering compared to 3 hours previously, allowing for more time for patient care. Fewer stock-takes are required, and they now take just half a day, compared to an average of 1.5 days before the new system.

The accuracy of coding procedures has also been transformed, as coders do not need to spend as long interpreting and querying results with clinicians. Automated transmission of POs and invoices with the PEPPOL transaction exchange also simplifies the payment process, providing confidence that orders are correct and reducing the overall cost of procurement.

Greater collaboration working

The solution provides an accurate foundation for engagement between clinicians, finance and procurement to compare costs and identify opportunities for greater efficiency. For example, significant savings were made by introducing individual packs of pre-sterilised maxillofacial screws, removing the high cost of screw tray sterilisation.

More accurate recharging

In the past, a high number of missed coding opportunities impacted the Trust's ability to recharge CCGs but with real-time costing data, invoices are raised quickly and far more accurately. The Trust was also facing a coding backlog of around three months. This has been slashed, dramatically improving revenue retrieval times.

Clinical teams are more aware of the need to capture all procedure details. As a result of this transformation in coding, the Trust have seen a sizeable uplift in improved coding which in turn has led to an increase in recharged revenue.

Better patient safety

The 'Track and Trace' system automatically captures implant lot or consumable serial numbers, and logs the instrumentation set so that patients can easily be recalled in the event of an issue. The handheld scanner also flags up if any equipment is out of date.

> *"Utilising the scanners in theatres provides me with extra reassurance: we're now able to capture an accurate patient-level record of exactly which consumables and instruments we have used, as well as real-time records of the procedures we have completed,"* says Keith Jones, Clinical Director of General Surgery. *"*

AT A GLANCE

The challenge

- Save time, spend and improve stock management
- Enhance traceability and patient safety

The solution

- Healthlogistics hTrak, eCat and eConnect services
- Handheld scanners capture patient, procedure and consumable details
- Auto-replenishment system raises stock requests

The benefits

- Reduction in stock holdings, management and wastage
- Ability to compare prices and identify savings
- Revenue increased through more accurate recharging
- Increase in patient safety through 'Track and Trace' system

For more information about the services used by Derby Teaching Hospitals call the Healthlogistics account team today on 01442 381 758 or visit www.healthlogistics.co.uk