

STANLEY
Healthcare

Accelerating Scan4Safety with Real-Time Technology

“Right Patient, Right Product, Right Place, Right Process” is the overarching goal of the National Health Service’s Scan4Safety programme. The initiative relies on GST Standards to provide a consistent data structure for identifying patients, products and places, with barcodes used to scan and record these critical inputs to care delivery.

By freeing up clinicians to focus on patient care and supporting them in providing error-free care, Scan4Safety supports the ultimate goals of better safety and higher efficiency.

To address the overarching goals, the programme is taking a distributed approach to innovation and seeding pilots at demonstrator sites throughout the UK. One of those sites is Calderdale Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust (CHFT) as part of the West Yorkshire Association of Acute Trusts and in collaboration with Leeds Teaching Hospital.

Scan4Safety grants are often used to procure more effective and interoperable systems that deliver visibility to the location of people and products across a trust. CHFT’s Digital and Biomedical Engineering teams identified real-time asset tracking as a strong candidate, and a business case was taking shape early in 2020.

When the pandemic struck, the need for real-time technology became more urgent than ever. CHFT made the strategic decision to invest in the STANLEY Healthcare RTLS platform powered by the MobileView software. This enterprise RTLS



solution is designed to increase visibility to assets, environmental conditions, people and more. In very short order, CHFT deployed asset tracking using the STANLEY Healthcare RTLS solution, and the Scan4Safety business case leapt from the spreadsheet to the ward floor.

“The MobileView solution perfectly lends itself to the Scan4Safety programme of work,” said Associate Director of Digital Health Neil Staniforth. “Although it’s just one of the elements, it plays a key role and has enabled us to adopt other quality and safety practices.”

The trust is using both physical and virtual tags to link mobile assets to the RTLS platform. To date, the team has tagged ECG carts, infusion pumps, medication dispensers, patient monitors and a variety of mechanical hoods used by hospital personnel.

Prior to the real-time solution, the trust had limited visibility to the who and where of these critical assets. Nurses and administrators were forced to search for assets as they were needed; proactive resource management was nearly impossible. With the STANLEY Healthcare solution, they have visibility to the location of all the devices across the trust’s two campuses.

“Now we can identify what’s needed for a patient, and we’re able to gather that kit and start treatment in a much timelier fashion,” explains Chief Nurse Information Officer Carol Gregson.

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NEIL STANIFORTH, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF DIGITAL HEALTH, CALDERDALE AND HUDDERSFIELD NHS FOUNDATION TRUST



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CAROL GREGSONCHIEF NURSE INFORMATION OFFICER
CHFT

In addition, administrators rely on the solution for care planning, as it helps identify precisely how many beds can be supported given the available resources.

At the height of the pandemic, CHFT tagged personal protective equipment (PPE) for visitors—namely, four mechanical hoods at each of the two sides of the trust. The trust purchased these assets to facilitate critical family visits, and the asset tags enabled fast, reliable identification of their location.

The trust has virtually tagged more than 450 handheld mobile computers. Tracked using their individual MAC addresses, these multifunctional devices are crucial to the Scan4Safety programme at CHFT. Clinical staff use them for a variety of tasks—including using voice-activated software to record patients' vital signs.

More recently, the trust has tagged 160 laptops on wheels, along with 240 printers for labeling collected specimens. Using the mobile computers, clinicians scan the barcode on the patient's wristband and print the label at the same time.

The virtually tagged handheld devices and physically tagged printers are central to critical “closed loop” processes that CHFT is tackling as part of Scan4Safety. For example, a new Maternity Ward process uses barcode scanning to ensure that the right breastmilk is matched to the right infant. A similar process is helping match the right blood products with the right patient. Longer-term plans call for barcode scanning of medications—an undertaking that is much more complex due to the sheer volume of medicines and dosages.

For CHFT, real-time technology is proving key to achieving Scan4Safety's “Right Patient, Right Product, Right Place, Right Process” vision. During and beyond the pandemic, the RTLS solution is helping ensure that critical equipment is available when and where it is needed to support patient care. Just as important, the solution delivers visibility to the handheld computers and printers that are key to closed loop processes related to blood, breastmilk and other vital resources.

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