Improving safety in operating theatres

Where a missed inspection could lead to a critical incident

GIG CYMRU NHS WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Betsi Cadwaladr
University Health Board

As with any healthcare provider, patients put their faith in Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board's ability to provide first-rate care using the latest medical equipment.

The Welsh hospital group, in turn, relies on approximately 160 staff, including nurses, doctors, consultants and other health professionals, to undertake inspections on the equipment used in 16 operating theatres on more than 10,000 patients each year.

It is not an easy job. In every theatre there are at least six pieces of life-saving equipment, most of which requires regular, often daily, inspections. But the inspections are vital.

If the right equipment isn't working at the right time, or in the correct ward, operations and patients could be in danger.

An onerous and error-prone task

Historically, the importance of inspections was hardly matched by the process used for keeping track of them. As in many other healthcare groups, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board relied on paper-based records to track inspections.

This dented hospital efficiency, with hundreds of staff filling in tens of thousands of forms every year. And with no accountability or traceability, there was a continuous risk to patient care, which could lead to time-consuming inquiries and costly fines.

Just one example of the hazards of the system came when a surgeon needed a special operating table for keyhole surgery and found it had been sent to be fixed, potentially compromising the success of the operation.

Aware of these problems, theatre manager Paul Andrew decided to look for a better option. What he found was Papertrail, a simple yet powerful patient safety platform that helps healthcare providers reduce the risks they face.

Papertrail: inspection reporting made easy

Instead of having to rely on untraceable, unaccountable paper documents and files for inspections and equipment reports, the hospital group now has a single, instantly updated online record of all inspection data.

Each of the staff responsible for inspections has a Papertrail account so they can log inspection details on the go.

Equipment details are uploaded into the cloud, providing an instantly accessible overview of everything from tables to suction units and anaesthetic machines. Inspection schedules are also built into the medical Papertrail accounts so that no inspections are missed.

All this is giving the hospital group much greater operational efficiency. It reduces downtime and releases staff time, since transparent real-time inventory management makes it easier to ensure the right equipment is in the right theatre when required.

"I have already noticed a marked improvement in the time it takes to log inspections," says Andrew. "The department is running smoother.

Start reducing your risk today

If you're still relying on a paper-based system to track inspections then you may not be paying much... but it could be cost you millions in fines, reputational damage and post-incident investigations if there is a problem. Is that a risk you want to carry on taking?

"We aren't scrambling to find equipment for surgeons or other staff since we know where everything is, what is or isn't operational, and what is currently being repaired."

PAUL ANDREW, THEATRE MANAGER, BETSI CADWALADR UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD

Find out how you can run a smarter, safer healthcare service today, with Papertrail. **Call us now on +44 1248 719270 or write to us at healthcare@ papertrail.io.**

About Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board
Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board is the largest health organisation in Wales, providing a full range of primary, community, mental health and acute hospital services for a population of around 678,000 people across the six counties of North Wales.

About Papertrail
Papertrail was created out of the need to find an easier way to keep accurate records and demonstrate compliance for equipment inspections and audits.

Today, industry-leading partners, SMEs to larger enterprise and public sector organisations and their staff and contractors trust Papertrail to drive business efficiencies and optimise compliance by managing equipment inspections, certification and safety records. Find out more at papertrail.io.

Find out more at
www.papertrail.io

5 Station Road, Llanfairfechan, Conwy
LL33 0AL, United Kingdom
Phone: +44 (0)1248 719270
Email: healthcare@papertrail.io

papertrail
Record keeping made simple