

## Pioneering specialist medication automation cabinets brings efficiency and financial savings across emergency care, theatres and admission units at Northumbria Specialist Emergency Care Hospital



**Northumbria Specialist Emergency Care Hospital based in Cramlington, opened in 2015 and is the first purpose-built hospital in the country to have emergency medicine consultants on site 24/7, and specialist consultants in a broad range of conditions working seven days a week.**

After a successful 18-month trial of Omnicell's systems in two North East general hospitals, a total of 24 medication automation cabinets are now in use across various departments including emergency care and theatres. Following the success of the project, another seven medication cabinets have been installed across Northumbria Healthcare hospitals. The Omnicell systems allow clinical staff to order, manage and control the usage of medicines, whilst ensuring patient safety and more time for face to face patient care. The Omnicell systems are being integrated with MedChart (the hospital's ePMA system), which is the next step in the Trust's medicines management strategy.

### The goals of implementation were to...

- automate the ordering of medicines due to no on site pharmacy department
- reduce average drug spend per patient, waste and stock
- reduce risk of administrator errors improving safety
- reduce nursing, medical and pharmacy staff time spent looking for medicine cupboard keys
- automation of 'top-up' ordering, storing, rotating and organising medicines
- reduce inaccurate, ad-hoc ordering leading to risk of stock outs, omitted doses and treatment delays or over-stocking
- implement audit trail of medicines use once supplied by pharmacy



## Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust Pharmacy



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Without a doubt the greatest benefit has been seen in nurse time savings, with staff no longer wasting time searching for keys or medicines. These time savings which have been re-directed into frontline patient care are both invaluable and rewarding for nurse and patient alike.

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**Lauraine Gibson, Matron  
ED and Discharge Lounge,  
Northumbria Healthcare NHS  
Foundation Trust**



Department  
nursing time  
savings  
equating to  
**£7,000**



Reduction in  
drug spend of  
**6%**  
per patient



Stock out has  
fallen from  
**22%**  
to  
**6%**



**£30,000**  
Annual drug  
efficiency  
saving



Omnicell  
systems have  
**improved  
patient care**  
and medicines  
management  
by utilising  
patient safety  
features such  
as dispensing  
alerts for  
allergies,  
NPSA alert  
compliance  
and antibiotic  
stewardship



Since the  
installation of  
the cabinets  
the Trust has  
seen a  
**0%**  
**critical  
missed  
dose rate**



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