Developing an RFID Strategy for Health Care

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Infrastructure vs Point Solution

- A point solution solves one problem:
  - Controls access to restricted area, speeds up payment, automates a specific task
- Infrastructure can be used for many applications
  - Think of cell networks (calls, texting, web surfing, etc.)

Think infrastructure

- Each health care provider's goal should be to build an RFID infrastructure that:
  - Enables collection of data on everything mobile within the facility or campus (equipment, people, etc.)
  - Supports multiple applications and integrates into multiple backend systems
  - Enhances the providers overall goals (reduce costs and boost patient outcomes)
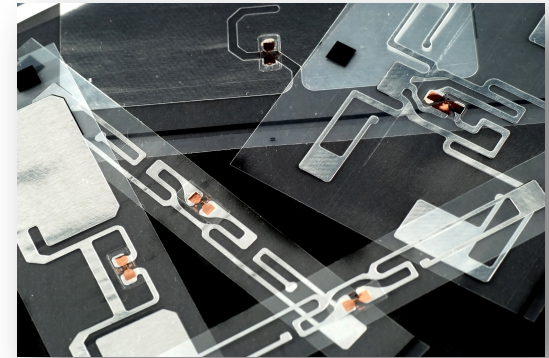 - Is able to scale and adapt to changing needs

Create a cross functional team

- All stakeholders must be involved to ensure that the RFID infrastructure meets their needs, including:
    - Engineering/Operations
    - Materials handling
    - Supply chain/logistics
    - Doctors and Nurses
    - Finance
    - Information technology

Educate stake holders

- Providing an understanding of the following will help committee members make better decisions:
  - What are other health care providers doing with RFID?
  - What other industries are employing RFID in similar ways and what benefits are they getting?
  - What types of RFID are available and how do they match up with our requirements?

Common Operational Issues

- Nurses spend 30-90 minutes per week searching for equipment
- Biomedical staff spend about 40 hours per week searching for equipment
- Asset utilization rates are often around 50%
- Money is wasted on unneeded rental equipment
- Staff spend time manually tracking the temperature of refrigerators for regulatory compliance

Reduced Search Times

- San Joaquin Community Hospital in San Joaquin, Ca., saw search times for PCA pumps go from an average of 23 minutes to less than 5 minutes
- rfidjournal.com/article/view/7434

- Union Hospital in Terre Haute, IN, has saved labor hours equivalent to one full-time employee since deploying an RTLS.
  rfidjournal.com/article/view/7414

Improved Asset Utilization

- At San Joaquin Community Hospital in San Joaquin, Ca., utilization rose from 50% to nearly 80% for PCA pumps, and from 40% to more than 60% for IV pumps
  rfidjournal.com/article/view/7434

Improved Asset Utilization

- Wayne Memorial Hospital found, after deploying an RTLS, that it was utilizing only 60% of the oxygen pumps it owned, so it purchased 50 fewer than planned, thereby saving $275,000.
rfidjournal.com/article/view/3199

- Mission Hospital in Mission Viejo, Ca., saw asset utilization rates rise 7 percent after deploying an RTLS.
rfidjournal.com/article/view/8091

Reduced Capital Spending

- Health First, a Florida hospital network, saved $300,000 because it did not need to purchase 100 replacement infusion pumps rfidjournal.com/article/view/7713

- Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston expects to save $300,000 a year from using an RTLS to track 8,000 devices rfidjournal.com/article/view/3931
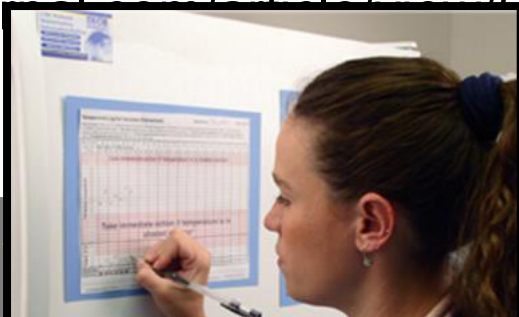
Reduced Rental Spending

- Bon Secours Richmond Health System saves $2 million each year from its RTLS as a result of drastically amount of rental equipr company's four hospital rfidjournal.com/article/view/725

Reduced Regulatory Labor

- University Hospital in upstate NY installed a temperature-monitoring system in some 100 refrigerators that store pharmaceuticals, vaccines and bone and tissue samples.

- Manually temperature recording eliminated
  - rfidjournal.com/article/view/5012

Map out common processes

- What are the processes in our facility from receipt of materials to delivery to patients?

- Ask stakeholders to identify problem areas

- Consider whether RFID can help solve those problems or whether other technology is needed or would be more effective or cheaper

Draw up a list of key requirements

- What needs to be tracked and where

- Over what distance do items need to be tracked?

- What location accuracy is required?

Choose the right technology

- Select the right type of RFID that will meet the vast majority of your requirements.

- You will likely need one active system and one passive system

Set Up Working Groups

Each group should focus on 1 of the following:
- IT issues
- Prioritizing pilots/deployments
- Vendor selection (primary and secondary)
- Creating a global RFID policy
- Managing change (including training)
- Tech support

How to prioritize projects

Create criteria for prioritizing, including

- Relative ease of the project

- Potential return on investment

- Importance of project to company's goals

- Regulatory compliance

- Safety and environmental issues

Begin the rollout in one location

- Make sure the technology works
- Get the integration piece right
- Get the business process change right
- Quantify the benefits
- Document the deployment
- Roll out the application to additional sites
- Repeat until the infrastructure is complete

Questions?

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THANK YOU