

# Streamlining Medical Equipment Management for Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust



## iAssets Key Benefits

- » Provides accurate location, usage and status data of your medical devices.
- » Reduces the time taken for nurses and EBME teams to find equipment.
- » Offers a safer patient environment with knowledge of which device was used with which patient.
- » Enables staff to audit wards in seconds.
- » Improves asset utilisation, significantly reducing the need to procure or hire equipment by 15%-30%.
- » Extends device lifespans with reminders for upcoming maintenance and sterilisation, creating further savings through the improved management of warranties and maintenance contracts.
- » Supports **Scan4Safety** and improves compliance with best practice as laid down by the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) and Care Quality Commission (CQC).

Managing medical equipment efficiently across a hospital site can be a tough challenge. With the introduction of iAssets, Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust has improved device utilisation levels, minimised the need to purchase new devices and clinical and engineering staff are now spending less time looking for equipment.

## About Homerton University Hospital

Based in the London Borough of Hackney, Homerton University Hospital provides general health services across the community with staff working out of 75 different sites. The hospital has over 500 beds spread across 11 wards, a 9-bed intensive care unit, as well as maternity, paediatric and neonatal wards.

The Trust employs over 3,500 staff and is recognised as an innovator in embracing methods and systems that promise better and safer patient care.

## The Challenge:

### Lack of visibility of equipment location

The location of medical equipment owned by the Trust was not being captured and recorded on a frequent basis. This became even more problematic when equipment was moving round the hospital.

### Lack of audit capability

The tools that were available to undertake equipment audits were limited. As a result, information was lacking about device availability and the proportion that were lost, stolen or had been transferred to other locations outside the hospital.

### Significant time wasted

The team at Homerton University Hospital were wasting a lot of time looking for equipment. According to the Nursing Times, approximately 30 minutes is wasted per nurse to search for equipment.

### Poor equipment utilisation rates and substantial re-procurement costs

The Trust invests a significant amount of money annually on procuring medical equipment to replace 'lost' devices. Generally, these devices are not lost but stored within the hospital in a place that only limited employees have access to.

### The Solution: Driving change with iAssets

iAssets is providing users at Homerton University Hospital with the ability to manage and utilise medical equipment far more efficiently. Not only does the solution use tag-agnostic technology for effective tracking, but also in the future it will manage the assignment of assets to patients, along with their decontamination and maintenance scheduling. This captures the who, what, where, when and why of data that is required to support the Scan4Safety mandate, ensuring patient safety and granting the Trust the ability to future plan and assess asset utilisation.

### How does it work?

The team at Homerton University Hospital is now equipped with handheld mobile devices to manage the complete lifecycle of equipment. By scanning asset tags, staff are provided with the full status of the asset, including its location and usage history as well as

*"We have managed to reduce our procurement levels by 25%"*

**Brian Long, Head of Medical Electronics, Homerton University Hospital**

the upcoming schedule. This data is also being used by other business functions, such as procurement, to determine what new equipment is required and where in the hospital it is needed the most.

### Benefits: Delivering efficiencies and financial savings

#### Tracking equipment

"iAssets has been instrumental in turning around our medical equipment management," says Brian Long, Head of Medical Electronics at Homerton University Hospital. "We can now locate our equipment easily and quickly. In the past, if an item was moved out of the library or between departments in the middle of the night we wouldn't know where to find it in the morning."

In addition, all loan equipment is now tagged upon arrival to the hospital. This ensures that the team can return it back to the supplier at the end of the term hence avoiding unexpected penalty fees.

#### Lower procurement costs

Improving equipment utilisation with iFIT has considerably reduced expenditure at Homerton University Hospital. Brian gives an example: "We have been able to reduce the size of the equipment library. After implementation and when items were no longer going missing, we discovered that we were overstocked. We have been able to reduce our inventory procurement level by 25%."

#### Maintenance costs and scheduling

The solution easily integrates with third party asset management solutions for maintenance scheduling. With digital technology, the team can now locate equipment scheduled for maintenance swiftly - wherever it is in the hospital.

Following implementation, planned preventative maintenance rates

*"With iAssets, the time we spend looking for equipment has been reduced from days to seconds."*

**Brian Long, Head of Medical Electronics, Homerton University Hospital**

increased from 80% to 95% overnight, significantly reducing patient risk.

With iAssets, the trust could also cancel an £80K annual maintenance agreement since it was noted that the equipment covered was no longer in service.

#### Speeding up inventory audits

With iAssets, ward audits have become a simple task and are carried out daily. With one scan in each different area, we scan every item in the library, so we immediately know which equipment was moved overnight.

#### A more efficient team

Brian adds: "In the past, it would sometimes take a skilled technician all day to find a certain device. This was not only time consuming but also very demoralising; foraging for equipment rather than using their skills to operate them."

*"The staff love iAssets. It cuts down wasted time. We have a working system and the future roadmap looks really good!"*

**Brian Long, Head of Medical Electronics, Homerton University Hospital**

### Want to know more about iFIT?

Please get in touch for more information or to arrange a demonstration.

