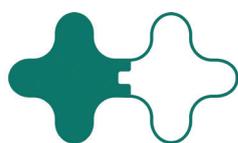


BARCODING

IMPROVE SAFETY, ENHANCE CARE AND SAVE COSTS

Assistive Partner has developed a specific hospital inventory management (UNIQUUS® HIM) version of its highly successful UNIQUUS® cloud based software. It explains how the system has played an important role in primary care settings



assistive partner

There's no doubt, if you ask any trust's finance management, they're clear that the £22 billion savings mandated between now and 2020 must come from non-pay sources. The lemon has been well and truly squeezed already. Most savings from staff pay and property have already been banked. Even the prices the NHS pay for 'stuff' has been reduced to a point where there is little room for further manoeuvre if suppliers are to remain solvent.

SO WHERE IS THE FAT?

If the NHS were a FTSE 100 business or a leading global corporation, what would the board be focussed on to deliver that kind of saving over the next few years? Well, surprise, surprise – most of them have already been there. In the world of commerce, times have never been more competitive. Nor more cost conscious. To survive and prosper, the world's biggest commercial organisations have been forced to look down the barrel of this same gun. Their answer has been to embrace more efficient systems.

Like the NHS, almost all of these behemoths have already become 'lean' in terms of their people and property costs. So they have turned to savings in processes and supply chain management. Every business process they have has come under the microscope. And potential savings have been calculated. Then ranked in order of the best return on investment first and so on.

At the top of the UK healthcare tree, the Department of Health has kicked off a similar process. The Carter report, the Wachter Review and the NHS Chief Executive's Sustainability and Transformation 'Triple-Aim' of: improved

health and well-being; transformed quality of care delivery; and sustainable finances. So the agenda is set. There are savings to be made that are nothing to do with reduced prices, workforce pay or property costs. In short, there is to be investment in systems – spend to save. Frankly, if supermarket, clothing firms and DIY chains can do it – so can the NHS.

ENTER THE SIMPLE BARCODE...

In fact, the NHS doesn't even need to invent new technology. It just needs to take what has been tried and tested in Civvy Street and adapt and adopt. Let's take barcoding as an example. The DH e-Procurement Strategy has already outlined best practice. And there are six well-funded demonstrator hospitals charting the areas for instant success and quick wins. There's a GS1 compliance requirement for all hospitals.

Helping non-clinical staff move from paper based systems and a fire-fighting approach, to a proactive, systems-driven paperless pathway. Helping clinical staff step away from administration duties which add little value, to more bedside time. Ensuring that records are accurate, electronic and easy to interrogate. So that there can never be another PIP implant scandal, where thousands of patients are left vulnerable and at-risk because of poor record-keeping procedures (nothing whatsoever to do with clinical incompetence).

The technology exists; whereby a simple scan of the patient wristband and scans of the packs of material is all that is required to: a) record what was consumed during an operation; b) record the whereabouts

of what may need to be recalled; c) create an automated replenishment order based on actual usage; and d) deliver an accurate patient and procedure-level cost analysis.

Assistive Partner's hospital inventory management software – known as UNIQUUS HIM, is simple to use and swift to implement. The business case for its deployment is easy to create and will show how an investment of less than £60,000 per annum is very likely to deliver savings of well over £400,000 per annum when just deployed in a hospital's operating theatre environment.

When a hospital integrates finance systems and catalogue systems with UNIQUUS HIM the resultant end-to-end (P2P) system goes a long way to delivering a digital future and helps ensure a future-proof operating system across the trust.

SPEND-TO-SAVE

Assistive Partner can help trusts develop a 'spend-to-save' business case in line with the following objectives (which most trusts have in common): scalable, hospital-wide e-procurement goals; sustainability and Transformation 'triple-aim' plans; 'smart-hospital' digitisation (Wachter guidelines); spend to save business case for safety improvements and cost savings; easy to use and swift to implement systems; GS1 compliance programs; freeing up of clinical time; reduce administration and paper; enhance patient safety; patient level costing; and waste reduction.

Scale these types of proven technology savings (already tried and tested in industry and commerce) across the whole hospital; multiply such savings by the number of hospitals, and extend the use of similar systems-based, mobile workforce, track and trace technology into pathology samples and other hospital and community based areas - and the £22 billion savings start to become true reality and very achievable. If Walmart can do it, so can the NHS. ■

FURTHER INFORMATION

Tel: +44 (0) 844 335 6791
info@assistivepartner.co.uk
www.assistivepartner.co.uk/HIM.aspx