Case Study
Countess of Chester Hospital
NHS Foundation Trust, UK
New endoscopy reprocessing suite delivers efficiency and ease

Project

The Countess of Chester Hospital, a general hospital in the UK’s northeast, provides a wide range of medical services to more than 445,000 patients per year from Western Cheshire, Ellesmere Port, Neston and North Wales. Plans to expand were already in the initial stages when the hospital’s previous AER equipment started to fail. When three out of four machines stopped working, rental machines temporarily filled the gap but a long-term solution was urgent.

A multi-disciplinary project team from the hospital drew up specifications, based on running five endoscopy treatment rooms. As part of the mid-2013 overhaul, endoscope reprocessing was amalgamated with sterile services, which supports the rest of the trust. In planning the layout of the new facility, the project team started from scratch, working through a few evaluations and revisions, opting for a clean, minimalist approach. For the selection of equipment, they benchmarked against a range of NHS suppliers, evaluating cost-effectiveness and fit. The team also wanted to minimize the number of third parties involved, so it looked for a manufacturer that could take on the full contract for all needed equipment versus multiple suppliers.

In the end, the decision in favour of the solutions from Getinge was unanimous.

Now, endoscope reprocessing has shifted from a tiny, overheated room to a large, light-filled suite that features a comprehensive solution from Getinge, including six dual-chamber ED-FLOW Automated Endoscope Reprocessors, the T-DOC tracking and traceability system, a variety of drying and storage cabinets, the Vac-a-Scope packaging system and a Reverse Osmosis (RO) water purification plant. With the launch of a new endoscopy reprocessing suite, the hospital has set new standards for endoscope decontamination, work environment, and patient care.

The Getinge ED-FLOW AERs, with two asynchronous chambers per machine, allow the department to process up to 12 scopes at the same time in a fast, efficient 22-minute cycle. The machines use high-level Getinge DLC detergent and peracetic acid-based Aperlan disinfectant. This is delivered in two separate containers, Agent A and Agent B, which are mixed inside the machine.
Using Getinge solutions, endoscopy staff now process 100 scopes daily and can easily grow to over 150 per day when ready.

Solution

Each stage of the endoscope reprocessing process is logged and identified using the in-built RFID technology, which is linked to the Getinge T-DOC track and trace system. Once the AER’s cycle is completed, scopes are unloaded and transferred to one of four Getinge drying and storage cabinets, where they can be stored for a maximum of seven days. An extraction hood removes any dust kicked up by drying cabinets. The endoscope decontamination suite has a separate chemicals and consumables store, with cabinets that provide containment of peracetic acid and prevent chemical vapour contaminating the work area.

Scope storage is completely centralized. Dry scopes can be quickly vacuum-packed using the Vac-a-Scope system and placed in the storage area ready for collection for the next procedure, for a ‘one scope, one room, one patient’ approach. Staff process 100 scopes a day from the treatment rooms (not including operating theaters etc.), and could increase to over 150 a day relatively easily, says the SSD manager.

Training offered through the Getinge Academy, with courses tailored to the needs of different user profiles, helped staff get up-to-speed on the new equipment quickly.

Benefits

- The ED-FLOWs feature a true barrier system; it’s built in a wall to provide a physical separation between the dirty and clean areas within the endoscopy department.
- Viewing panels in the ED-FLOWs allow visibility between the clean and dirty sides for a quick view of wash status. There’s also an interlocked transfer hatch with an intercom.
- The ED-FLOWs require a cold water feed only, eliminating the larger footprint and higher cost required for a hot water feed.
- A user-friendly interface and hands-free operation simplify use and eliminate contamination.
- The set-up offers easy, safe and secure chemicals handling. The T-DOC tracking and traceability system works together seamlessly with the ED-FLOW AERs, ensuring accuracy whilst eliminating human error.
- Scopes can easily be traced throughout the hospital to see what stage they’re at, who’s using them, and providing a full history in seconds.

- With the Vac-a-Scope system, scopes can be stored for up to 30 days, minimizing the need for reprocessing.

“I genuinely do believe that Getinge has the best machines on the market, but that’s not everything – it’s the whole package. The support from Getinge has been brilliant, the training, the IT support, the equipment. In terms of getting up and installed, they’ve hit every deadline. They’ve been on hand whenever we needed them.”

Jamie Barnes, endoscopy and sterile services team leader

Getinge is the world’s leading provider of complete, ergonomical, cost-efficient solutions for effective cleaning, disinfection and sterilization in the healthcare and life science sectors.

Getinge Group is a leading global provider of products and systems that contribute to quality enhancement and cost efficiency within healthcare and life sciences. We operate under the three brands of ArjoHuntleigh, Getinge and Maquet.


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