A Harland Simon Solution

How does it work?

Active RFID
For accurate real-time location tracking each medical device is fitted with an active RFID tag which transmits its unique ID at pre-set intervals. Signals are picked up by a network of fixed readers or by handheld readers. Location data is then transferred to a central database, which can be integrated with the trust’s asset management database.

Passive RFID
Due to their lower cost, UHF tags can be attached to all assets and often replace existing asset labels. Tags are detected with a specialist RFID trolley or handheld readers, enabling fast and accurate auditing for improved inventory management.

RFID Asset Tracking for Healthcare

The loss and underutilisation of mobile assets costs the healthcare sector millions of pounds each year. Particularly for acute hospitals, it’s a challenging task to keep track of equipment with staff clocking up hours and miles searching for available devices or out-of-service equipment.

Used at numerous NHS Trusts and other healthcare organisations throughout the UK, RFiD Discovery provides an affordable and scalable Asset Tracking solution that enables users to improve the management of medical devices and other assets. The system is ideal for tracking any asset including medical devices, beds, mattresses, wheelchairs, gas cylinders, laptops and communication devices.

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Key Benefits

- Accurate record of asset locations
- Time saved looking for equipment
- Improved asset utilisation reduces need to purchase new devices
- Updates inventory records in minutes
- Safer patient environment
- Improved maintenance efficiency to support compliance

“Using RFID technology has improved our care and provided a return on investment by saving us hundreds of thousands of pounds and thousands of hours of nurses’ time.”

Paul White, Head of Clinical Engineering, Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
GS1 Asset Labelling with passive RFID

The Department of Health’s eProcurement strategy mandates the use of GS1 standards in every NHS Acute Trust in England to increase efficiencies and significantly improve the quality and safety of care. Other healthboards around the UK are also adopting the standards. Many of the benefits associated with GS1 labelling for assets are linked to the use of RFID technology, which enables the fast and automatic capture of asset information. Incorporating passive RFID with a GS1 compliant label adds virtually no cost in comparison to a standard barcode label and the benefits are numerous.

A flexible solution

Our GS1 asset labelling solutions are totally flexible and range from simply providing compliant labels to label printers on to a complete RFID track and trace system to support your inventory and asset management.

We support you all the way through implementation to ensure maximum benefits are achieved and pitfalls avoided. Our experts work in partnership with each trust or healthboard to ensure labels are placed correctly on devices, which is vital to enable maximum readability and successful data capture.

Our labelling solutions are designed for environments that require high standards of hygiene and cleanliness and are able to withstand regular cleaning with approved chemicals.

How does it work?

Passive RFID tags replace existing asset labels and incorporate a GS1 barcode carrying a Global Asset Identifier (GIAI). When interrogated by a reader, the label broadcasts its unique ID. Signals are picked up by the reader and sent to a central database, which records the location of the asset.

Tags are ideal for identifying any type of asset including medical devices, beds, wheelchairs, fire extinguishers, gas bottles, PCs and communication devices.

“It used to take us three months to complete a full inventory. Now we can carry out an audit of our 10,000 tagged medical devices in just three days!”

Bryan Hynd, Head of Medical Physics, NHS Forth Valley