



Centralising Medication Distribution

Greater Glasgow & Clyde NHS Health Board, United Kingdom

Gaining savings through centralising all distribution dispensing into one large medicines distribution centre has been the goal for the Greater Glasgow & Clyde NHS health board.

The health board has invested in eight combined Rowa Vmax™ systems and one smaller Rowa robot which is specifically for storing controlled drugs. These robots efficiently distribute medicines to around 4,000 destination points (hospital wards, community clinics, general practitioners (GP) practices) covering a population of 1.2 million people.

This is achieved by competently serving the stock delivery requirements for fourteen hospitals in the Greater Glasgow and Clyde area of Scotland.



Staff re-deployment

The health board has seen staff savings of 52 full time equivalents through centralising the distribution process and installing nine robots and still manage to provide services such as home deliveries to over 7,000 patients. Most staff were redeployed to enable enhanced front line care through redesigned bedside services.

Space efficiency

The space efficiency of the systems has allowed for the closure of one department, centralisation and redesign of bedside services. One of the 14 stores completely closed and has been converted to an ambulance HQ. In the remaining 13 stores space has been made available for other services. The new Queen Elizabeth University Hospital Pharmacy is now designed with 20% of the original footprint proposal.

Stock standardisation

The health board has saved £1.35million¹ in one year thanks to the efficiency of the distribution center and a bedside medicines management system to enable the use of patients own medicines.

¹ Greater Glasgow & Clyde NHS Health Board, Internal Analysis Pre and Post Automation, Glasgow, United Kingdom, 2011

Facts & Figures

8 Rowa Vmax systems and Rowa ProLog™ systems configured as a team

Single Rowa robot for narcotics

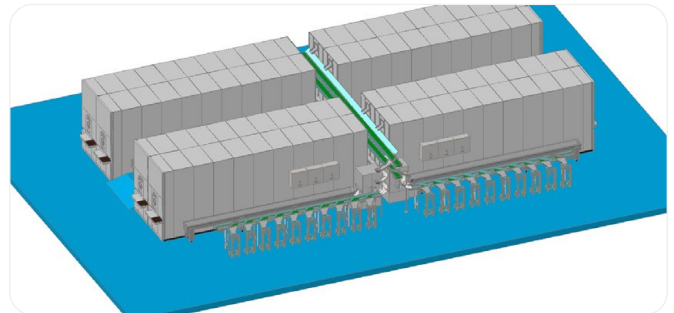
Interfaced with Ascribe Pharmacy Management system

Centralisation of 14 procurement/distribution centres into one single automated centre

Stock holding reduced to 7.8 days stock

24,000 orders picked/week (90,000 packs)

The health board has saved the equivalent of £300/bed/year¹



“What is groundbreaking is the scale of what we’ve achieved through automation. The overall redesign of services has enabled improved patient care and has saved £300 per bed and year for GG&C, that is £1.35 million in total.”

Norman Lannigan, Head of Pharmacy and Prescribing Support Unit, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board.

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