

CHRISTUS ST. FRANCES CABRINI HOSPITAL

A CLEAR ADVANTAGE



Crothall Healthcare Technology Solutions has crafted a unique role in medical device support that saves cost while improving patient safety. Crothall's EquipREADY program at CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital, a 281-bed facility admitting 12,000 patients in central Louisiana annually, has transformed into a model of time and resource efficiency while improving patient outcomes.

CHRISTUS partnered with Crothall to make equipment reliably clean and available to clinical teams, reducing hospital-acquired

infections (HAIs) and increasing time spent on patient care.

"Crothall made an investment in CHRISTUS so we could give our nurses and technicians more time to focus on patient care," said Dina Dent, Executive Nursing Director at St. Frances Cabrini Hospital. "It was the best kind of risk, one we were all confident in, and everyone is benefitting."

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

EquipREADY ensures devices are properly placed into service. EquipREADY is a hands-on human interface system that tracks, repairs and disinfects equipment prior to returning to use. Improving nurse satisfaction affects the Patient experience – HCAHPS data shows that nurse relationship is the driving factor behind a Patient's Overall Ratings of the hospital. Efficient tracking cuts time with equipment out of service and eliminates the need for rentals.



145 HRS

SAVED PER WEEK
RESULTING IN
MORE THAN

\$124,410

IN ANNUAL
SAVINGS



BY THE NUMBERS



\$198,270

SAVINGS BY
AVOIDING
PURCHASE OF
NEW
EQUIPMENT



23%

DECREASE IN
REPORTED
HOSPITAL-
ACQUIRED
INFECTION
RATE

MAY 2015 TO
MAY 2016

Unable to Locate (UTL) equipment was a major challenge at St. Frances Cabrini Hospital. The high UTL rates delayed equipment maintenance and created shortages that drove nurses to track down or rent replacements before Crothall instituted EquipREADY in May 2015. When nurses are not at the bedside the quality of care suffers. "There was a lot of wasted time and money looking for or exchanging equipment," said Julie Saenz, Senior Director of Client Services for Crothall. "It took away from everyone – nurses and technical staff – and things weren't ready for use much of the time."

REAL-TIME TRACKING

The first step for the EquipREADY system was to optimize departmental structure. Needs had to be properly identified prior to creating the program. Managers collaborated directly with the materials department to ensure nurses' equipment needs were met throughout the entire hospital, instead of inefficient distribution points on each floor.

A Real Time Location System (RTLS) was added to EquipREADY at CHRISTUS. Through infrared tracking of equipment requiring maintenance and sanitation Crothall HTS staff was able to log the location, transit and cleaning status for hospital staff and records. The clarity of the system extends to personnel – a biomedical technician from Crothall is tasked with equipment checks and clearance. Then he coordinates with a CHRISTUS specialist to smooth asset transitions and care.

SUCCESS AND THEN SOME...

A 23% drop in the HAI rate occurred during the first 12 months of EquipREADY. Every piece of equipment was tracked and disinfecting protocols conducted and verified before returning to use. As hand contact is the primary transmission of bacteria, this disinfecting protocol breaks the chain of contamination and reduces HAIs, creating a safer environment for Patients and Staff.

Unable to locate equipment (UTLs) dropped with EquipREADY. UTLs decreased significantly as soon as the system was in place. RTLS even impacted capital investment for replacement – Crothall was able to locate and retrieve equipment that was about to leave the facility with an estimated annual savings of \$18,000. In addition, due to more effective equipment utilization Christus did not have to purchase the \$198,270 in budgeted equipment.

St. Frances Cabrini Hospital's staff saved more than 145 hours per week. Previously CHRISTUS staff spent more than \$124,400 annually searching, cleaning and locating equipment by everyone from CNA to RN.

"The investment in RTLS is offset in labor alone during the first year," said Ned Bowen, Regional Vice President of Crothall Healthcare. "Savings for St. Francis Cabrini Hospital from the decrease of UTLs and HAIs are on top of that."

"The part we didn't count on initially may be the most important," continued Bowen. "Everyone at St. Frances Cabrini has been expressing their happiness and gratitude at the time they can spend on patient care now."

"The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive," said Saenz. "The program made a big impact and the nurses are relieved to be confident the equipment is clean and ready." Based on research conducted after implementation 94% of Clinical Staff surveyed responded that they would recommend EquipREADY.

To learn what Crothall can do for your organization, call **1-877-4CROTHALL (1-877-427-6842)**.