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Tough-PAC® Case Study
Dorset County Hospital

A busy modern hospital providing a full range of district general services, including an accident and emergency department.

The Requirement

Dorset County Hospital began rolling out a clinical software system in 2011 in support of initiatives to improve the earlier recognition of acute deterioration in patients, Early Warning Scores, bed management and general charting around the hospital. Initially the project used handheld Windows® mobile PDAs but manufacture of these ceased and the software supplier begun migrating the system onto Apple iOS devices.

The use of Apple’s iPad became a real prospect as a ward based tablet PC in this project though we were concerned about theft, damage and infection control issues that could affect such devices in a hospital environment.

We became aware of an innovative development ‘Tough-PAC®’ by Innervision Technology, a case for iPad specifically designed for healthcare that would address our concerns.

Deploying iPad inside a case that meets the requirements of a healthcare workplace has enabled us to progress our clinical software project using iPad confidently.

Some staff believed we had removed their iPads and replaced them with new devices.

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The Solution

With Tough-PAC®, we felt confident that iPad could be successfully used in a clinical environment and fulfill the requirements of infection control, device protection and usability. Consequently, we have now deployed iPad to all wards enclosed inside a Tough-PAC® case. This effectively disguises iPad, provides protection against damage and enables effective cleaning with infection control sprays or wipes.

In addition, the inherent anti-microbial technology incorporated into Tough-PAC® cannot be removed. Tough-PAC® provides a charge & sync cradle that removes the need for cables that may be lost in routine work or plugging in cables or connectors that can become damaged. Consequently, general handling and use is more efficient.

Implementation

We had been using iPad in basic wrap around cases as part of our software project. These were collected ward-by-ward and re-installed into Tough-PAC® with the support of Innervision Technology. To minimise disruption, this was done over a couple of days.

On the day of deployment, some of the staff believed that we had removed their iPads and replaced them with new devices.

Conclusion

Tough-PAC® has become the norm for a tablet-based device in the wards around the hospital; it’s design specific for healthcare means that it has been accepted well.

Deploying iPad inside Tough-PAC® meets the requirements of a healthcare workplace and has enabled us to progress our clinical software project using iPad efficiently and confidently.

The case design and materials used contribute to the fight against hospital-acquired infection and provide day-to-day usability. It can also protect the investment in hardware, reduces the risk of theft and damage.

Incorporating iPad inside a Tough-PAC® case is considerably more cost effective than other healthcare specific tablet PCs.
About Dorset County Hospital

Dorset County Hospital (DCH) was established in 1991 as part of a long-term project to bring together all the local services for acutely ill patients onto one hospital site. The new hospital, just outside Dorchester town centre, was completed in 1997.

We were awarded Foundation Trust status in June 2007.

Our busy, modern hospital provides a full range of district general services, including an accident and emergency department, and links with satellite units in five community hospitals.

Dorset County Hospital has approximately 400 beds, seven main theatres and two day theatres. We are the main provider of acute hospital services to a population of around 210,000, living within Weymouth and Portland, West Dorset, North Dorset and Purbeck. We also provide renal services for patients throughout Dorset and South Somerset, a total population of 850,000.

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If you would like to know more about Tough-PAC® and how it may assist your programs incorporating iPad into clinical work please get in touch:

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