

Tough-PAC® Case Study Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust

A busy modern hospital of 1200 beds providing a full range of medical services, including a busy accident and emergency department, AMU & SAU.



Electronic Observations

Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust has been at the forefront of development of electronic observations and Early Warning Scores to improve the earlier recognition of acute deterioration in patients since 2004. The initial development of the project used handheld Windows® mobile PDAs. When in 2011 manufacture of these devices ceased, the software supplier began migrating the system onto Apple® iPad and iPod Touch devices.

The challenges with all the deployment of mobile devices are apparent and include loss, damage, maintenance and infection control. Whilst meeting the need for the significant improvements that electronic observations bring, it also needs to be a robust reliable system. Something, that when using consumer electronic devices is not always easily achieved.

"With the new [Tough-PAC] system, we don't have to worry about connecting and disconnecting cables and the light indication tells us at a glance the battery state of a device. The dock gives a better central location for the devices in comparison to our previous solution"
Nurse AMU



Tough-PAC® disguises iOS devices, provides protection against damage, is inherently anti-microbial and enables effective cleaning with infection control sprays or wipes without compromising the device.

Implementation

The Trust has over 140 iPads in the clinical arena; these are all in Tough-PAC® cases and work extremely well. They enable iPad functionality while providing a durable, safe cover, which prevents damage to the devices. It also disguises the device that limits the likelihood of theft. No trailing cables reduce the impact on areas to gather dust and the covers are easily cleaned with appropriate wipes for infection control along with the cover's own anti-bacterial properties.

The Trust also has approximately 288 iPods currently deployed across the Hospital and while the iPod Tough-PAC® is a recent addition to Innervision's products, the installation has been well received and will generate further cost saving where previously use of a larger docking cabinet is both overkill and costly.

Before Tough-PAC®, when iPods were in an alternative multi charger cabinet, silicon covers were provided which had to be removed when charging in the dock. This resulted in staff not using the covers, the drop & damage rate of the devices was significant, the ultimate cost to the Trust was not sustainable in both expenditure and reduction in the number of units available to take observations.

Departments who still use alternative cases and docks, still have to disconnect and reconnect cables, as the result of overuse and breakage, they regularly have to replace expensive cables.

The Tough-PAC® option of iPods will provide an overall cost saving and remove the need for unsightly cable arrays.

“We have been using these for a number of years and not had a single breakage of an iPad.... they do not look like iPads this reduces the likelihood of theft. We haven't had a single one stolen yet” Tony Davies, IT Service Desk Manager.



About Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust

Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust provides a range of acute services at Queen Alexandra Hospital.

The site has gone through a major redevelopment to create a modern and 'fit for purpose' hospital, which was completed in 2009. The Trust's acute services provided at Queen Alexandra Hospital comprise;

- 1,200 beds, including cots
- 28 theatres - with four dedicated endoscopy theatres
- Four state of the art linear accelerators
- Two purpose built interventional radiology suites, two MRI scanners, three CT scanners and a PET scanner
- State of the art pathology laboratory
- Superb critical care facilities

There are 6,300 full time equivalent staff at the hospital.



Tough-PAC® is "Easier to clean and less likely to be left in nurses pockets and taken home by accident" Sister AMU



iPad is a trademark of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. Lightning is a trademark of Apple Inc.

Innervision Technology Ltd

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

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