

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Item Tagging, Tracking and Accountability



Acute Care/Hospital Surgical Supply, Asset and Inventory Management

Many health care organizations stock excessive quantities of high value surgical items and key clinical assets as a means of ensuring delivery of effective patient care. To avoid running out of needed items or compensating for inadequate, manual inventory control systems, significant cash-flow is tied up in stocking levels of high value surgical supplies and critical clinical assets. RFID technology provides an efficient means for tagging and tracking the quantity and locations of supplies and assets, thus improving patient care while reducing costs.

RFID Tags and Labels

RFID technology is achieved by placing labels or tags (that include an antenna and computer chip) onto items that need to be tracked based on usage or location. RFID 'Readers' send out radio waves that are absorbed by the antennas on the label/tag and powers the computer chip (which has the item # encoded into the chip), and which then sends back a message via the radio waves emanating from the RFID reader with item #'s read. Additional data such as 'location of the item' or 'this item was consumed' can be associated with the transaction and all data is uploaded to an Item Management database. The Item Management database can integrate with host inventory, asset and patient information systems as appropriate.

Portable RFID Readers

Surgical supply rooms can be quickly inventoried to determine assets-on-hand, such as cardiac/ortho implants and other high-value surgical supplies. Asset storage area or hospital-wide audits of 'assets in circulation' can also be performed using handheld RFID Readers. RFID inventories upload to a Item Management database and can be cross-referenced to item min/max levels for calculating reorder points. The item management data can render extensive reporting and can be integrated with host HIS inventory management and patient billing systems.

RFID Doorways & Read Zones (Choke Points)

In addition to or as an alternative to the RFID Controller, doorways can be outfitted with RFID antennas to keep track of item movements, including: which direction were the items traveling (in or out), who walked in or out with the items, and the time and date of the transfer. Antennas can be placed above or around doorways, on furniture or any surface desired, and will saturate the area with intensive radio waves for highly accurate RFID reads, providing item tracking without human effort.

RFID Storage & Access Control Cabinets

RFID cabinets include touch-screen computers that control access to items using biometrics, bar codes, magnetic card swipe, or PIN # and tracks what items authorized staff place-into or remove-from the cabinets. The inventory database is updated each time the cabinets are accessed and reconciled against re-order points for automated purchasing. RFID cabinets provide real-time inventory control of sensitive and high-value items, reducing inventory carrying costs & improving care.



**To learn more information or to be a part
of an educational webinar please contact:**

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