Accurate Patient Costing at your Fingertips

With simple to deploy mobile technology literally at our fingertips, patient costing is at a turning point. We can vastly improve the accuracy of healthcare costs in areas that have historically been hard to identify, such as: teaching, medical salaries, porters and orderlies.

Salaries and wages account for the largest costs in acute care. Apart from Nurse Dependency Systems *(where available and accurate)* the cost of clinical staff tends to be allocated on unweighted bed hours nationally. The national default of bed hours is based on two major assumptions that give rise to inaccurate data. The first assumption is that there are similar patients on a ward, and the second is that the time spent by clinical staff is comparable across patients.
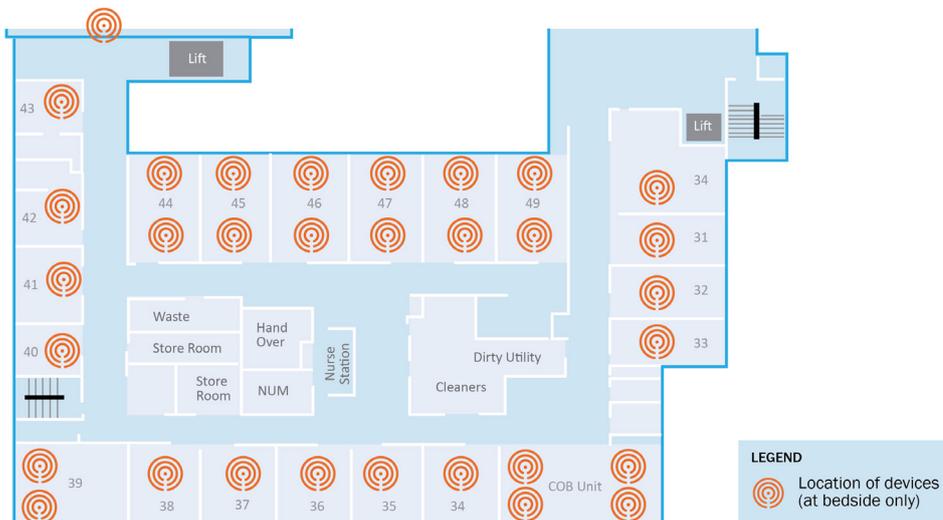
PPM Mobile Technology

PPM Mobile uses Bluetooth LE 4.0 technology to accurately record the time clinical staff spend at each patient's bedside. Alternatively, clinical staff can scan barcodes directly from the app (or select their patient interactions from a drop-down menu) to both record and time all their patient activities. The technology is simple to deploy and easy to use with minimal impact on patients and staff.

- A small tracking device is placed behind every bed
- The app is loaded onto mobile phones, which are carried by clinical staff (no staff identification is recorded, only role data such as nurse, allied health etc.)
- The tracking device records the time staff spend at each patient's bedside

The PPM Mobile app is fully integrated to PowerPerformance Manager (PPM), and recorded data is passed to PPM in the form of service codes (cost drivers). Logic is setup to enable the creation of standards based on actual data for patients not using the app.

'Hospital in the Home' and 'Nurse Dependency Systems' use the data to periodically update the underlying ND workload assumptions, which then feeds into PPM as ND cost drivers.
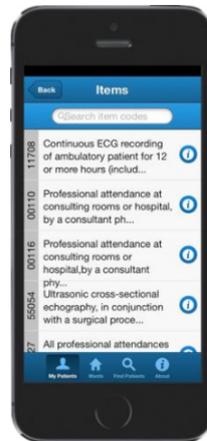

The technology uses a combination of Bluetooth beacons positioned at each bed, and inbuilt technology (accelerometer, gyroscope, compass) in smartphones carried by clinicians. The main activity areas within the hospital are not covered by devices.

Improve patient costing using actual staff-to-patient contact time for the allocation of clinical salaries and wages...

- Automated data collection via mobile device - no confidential patient data collected
- No patient or staff identifiers
- Only actual time spent at the bedside is tracked
- Improve the costing process around clinical salaries
- No impact on patients or staff

Requirements

- A Bluetooth LE 4.0 beacon at each patient bed
- A smartphone for each participating clinician, with PPM Mobile installed

To find out more about PPM Mobile, contact Robert Lawson at PowerHealth:

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