Advancing care with connected technology

Hillrom's connectable devices are designed with open architecture in mind to enable seamless integration into any procured Electronic Patient Record. This has the ability to advance patient care and improve efficiency.

There is an expectation in the NHS that all acute care facilities and access to consultations are to be fully digitalised by 2024. This long-term plan released by NHS England also included the promise that by the end of the next decade, there will be "an NHS where digital access to services is widespread". There is no doubt, the NHS is on a digital journey, and Med-Tech companies such as Hillrom have a responsibility to support this digital transformation by offering solutions and technology that improves patient outcomes and drives much-needed efficiencies. Interoperability is key, the ability to connect medical devices into software platforms and cloud-based solutions will help enable the caregiver to have access to patient data to better inform clinical decision making.

In order to help the NHS implement this plan, Hillrom has committed to provide existing globally accredited products as part of their connectable device portfolio including: the Vital Signs Monitors, Cardiopulmonary monitoring and Smart Beds such as the latest HR 900 Accella and Progressa ICU Smart Bed Systems.

Smart Bed Systems

Hillrom's connectable device portfolio has been designed with open architecture in mind to enable seamless integration into any procured Electronic Patient Record (EPR/EMR) including other vendors such as Cerner and Epic. By using standard communication protocols, Hillrom's smart beds can easily connect and transfer important patient-centric information allowing caregivers to evaluate more quickly and easily. Hospitals in the UK are having to work with increasing numbers of patients with complex health needs, this coupled with a reduced workforce which is consistently under strain to deliver high levels of quality care, is understood by Hillrom who has developed Smart Bed Solutions to aid these problems. Designed to help caregivers by reducing the time spent on administration and documentation issues allows more time to be spent on bedside and face to face care.

Variable data such as patient weight, Head of Bed Angle (HOB), side rail positioning and bed height are all sent directly from the bed systems to the EPR/EMR. Patient positioning alarms are directly transmitted to the nursing station monitors and handheld devices to ensure that notifications of falls are received at any location within a department or ward.

These connected Hillrom bed systems give the hospital location advantages, allowing departments to know where beds are located and whether or not the bed is occupied. This data allows for quicker patient transfers across departments without the necessity of physical or visual confirmation. Servicing and maintenance data are also available as part of Hillrom's Smartsync software, that identifies when servicing is required on the bed frame located on site, allowing for a more proactive and time-efficient servicing schedule.

This is where modern bed connectivity is headed. Hillrom has invested significantly in R&D and are committed to delivering

continuous innovation throughout the lifespan of the smart beds. As innovation from Hillrom continues, investment in smart bed technology will benefit from enhancements through software updates. This, in turn, will ensure that investment into this software will deliver cutting edge technology, significantly improving patient care. By investing in smart bed technology, today, the NHS and other organisations can future-proof their investments, which will increase the value of their assets as time goes on.

Some hospitals may not be ready for connected bed frames at this current moment in time, however, with the life expectancy of a bed frame being 10+ years and the NHS Long Term Plan needing to be implemented for 2024 there will be a need for connectivity. Additionally, Hillrom's smart beds arrive at hospitals "Connect Ready" allowing hospital organisations the ability to connect as soon as needed.

Vital Signs Monitors

Hillrom not only provides Smart Bed systems in their connectable portfolio, the Hillrom

Welch Allyn Connex Spot Monitor, a stand-alone vital signs device, can be connected to hospitals EPR/EMR via various different technology partners. To aid the early and timely detection of patient deterioration and, as such, significantly helps to improve patient outcomes.

Earlier detection and medical intervention can help prevent patient deterioration. Complications such as sepsis kills up to five people every hour in the UK, and a quarter of all sepsis survivors suffer permanent life-changing after-effects. Technology can play a leading role in the detection of deterioration and by using a fully connected vital signs patient monitor with an approved Track and Trigger System such as NEWS2, the device can help deliver an Early Warning Score with a bespoke escalation instruction that aids rapid diagnosis and treatment.

The Hillrom Welch Allyn vital signs device is considered best in class, with a simple colour touchscreen interface, fully customisable early warning scoring (NEWS2, PEWS), up to 20 custom modifiers allowing for more complete patient documentation. The system allows for a single sign on for quick, secure, clinical login and full wireless connectivity into the EPR/EMR of choice.

Based on a study by Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, a fully connected vital signs device; streamlines the workflow for the caregiver, improves efficiency and enhanced patient safety.

Electronic charting of vital signs took around 1 minute 12 seconds compared to 2 minutes using traditional charting methods. This time saving allowed caregivers to spend more time on direct patient care. Increased data accuracy, by automatic capturing of vitals, also reduced the likelihood of transcription errors and incomplete records. In addition, rapid reporting and clear traceability of results increased the visibility of patient vitals across the Trust.

Expertise backed by ongoing support

Hillrom UK has a team of Connectivity Specialists who are experts in their field, ensuring:

- Seamless integration into existing and new IT infrastructure.
- Supporting technical challenges and offering valuable insight into the interoperability needed to bring patient data to the bedside.
- Often demonstrating proof of concept early into the conversation, delivering reassurance that the Hillrom connected solution works.

By utilising the expertise of its Connectivity Specialists, Hillrom has become a market leader in Connected Vital signs devices enabling digital calculation of EWS. The company's portfolio of diagnostic cardiology devices are also fully electronically integrated into every UK Cerner EPR installation.

Hillrom's dedication to bringing its connectivity solutions together helps overcome the technology implementation challenges faced by many healthcare providers. With its expertise and experience, Hillrom has been able to fully connect Trusts in as little as six weeks, from start to finish, creating a platform that helps improve time constraints faced by caregivers.

By offering a network of fully connected solutions from Smart Beds to Vital Signs Devices, all which are compatible with existing EPR/EMR within the NHS, the process of introducing new technology is made simpler and more cost-efficient.

With Hillrom's impressive history of developing solutions that improve safety and enhance outcomes, healthcare providers can be sure that they are working with the right and trusted vendor from which they can receive high specification connected technology.

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