



Tampa
General
Hospital®



PAR Bin

Model PX3232

Manufacture Code: 18184

Calibration Code: 18184

IVOC Model Made in USA

0000020504123



CASE STUDY

Tampa General enables clinicians to grab and go

1

NO. OF HOSPITALS

25,000+

NO. OF SCALES
INSTALLED

6

DEPARTMENTS
WITH SCALES

42

NO. OF LOCATIONS
WITH SCALES

ALONG THE THIN LINE DELINEATING HEALING FROM HARM, LIFE FROM DEATH, SECONDS MATTER TO THE DOCTORS CARING FOR A PATIENT.

From the point of view of nurses, seconds matter, too. In fact, they're critical.

So the last thing nurses need to fret over is access to the products that can make a difference to a patient's well-being.

In those tension-filled seconds, nurses don't want to delay momentum by typing in a passcode or scanning a badge to unlock and open a storage cabinet door to obtain a product. And they don't want to go through the same process, no matter how brief, to find the drawer or shelf empty, forcing them to alert Supply Chain for replenishment. They also don't appreciate typing in product usage data to be uploaded to the patient's electronic medical record and shared with billing.

Grab and go represent the ideal. The system takes care of the rest behind the scenes.

Clinicians and Supply Chain professionals at Tampa General Hospital recognized the challenges clinicians faced with the closed automated supply cabinets they used for years.

"The closed cabinet model was a barrier to products for nursing and caused frustration when they needed to quickly obtain an item," said Mark Campbell, FACHE, CMRP, Vice President of Supply Chain. "The model was viewed as extra work for nursing with no added value.

"Nurses were frustrated with the steps of logging in and pressing the 'Take' or 'Return' button each time," Campbell continued. "They felt it slowed them down when they just wanted to quickly grab and return to patient care."

The estimated additional two to five minutes for such steps may not seem like much, but to nurses it can seem so much longer against whatever pressures loomed, according to Campbell.

"Each transaction saved minutes for chargeable supplies, but all those minutes can add up to the perception of 'wasted' time," he said.

As a result, Tampa General turned to PAR Excellence Systems for help and something different. They invested in the open-shelving concept of PAR Express and PAR Mobile for surgical area PAR carts.

Currently, they maintain more than 25,000 bins located across 178 weighted supply sites. PAR Mobile is used in 42 locations.

When the systems went live, nurses heaved a sigh of relief, Campbell noted. "Nurses appreciate the ease of the system and that it saves them time," he indicated. "Except for chargeable supplies, nurses are able to quickly identify what they need and quickly return to patient care."

While the new system may have a hiccup here and there it's a welcome change to the nursing staff, according to Ryan Mehuron, Director of Supply Distribution.

"They remark it is quicker and easier," Mehuron said. "We do have some challenges with compliance on suspended batches, whereas the scale registers missing items, but no associated patient charges. Compared to [the previous closed system] we have similar compliance. Nurses have commented that the new system is easy for them to locate the patient versus having to scroll, etc., under the old system."

With the system's autonomous scales, nurses no longer need to record the pulling of a product from the bin or shelf. Automatic tracking of consumption, monitoring of adjustments to par levels per location by room layout and other continuous optimization efforts has helped Tampa General reduce its stockout rate to less than 1%, according to Mehuron.

By switching to the open system PAR Excellence offers, Tampa General eliminated the annual expense of more than \$500,000 in lease payments for the closed cabinets, Campbell indicated. The capital for lease expense for the PAR Excellence system is "much less," he added.

Campbell and Mehuron both extol the virtues of the open-bin system with weighted scales and encourage facilities to give the technology a test drive. But you'll need to do some initial prepwork, according to Campbell.

"Start with the workflow," he advised. "Identify what is and isn't working for nursing and see what improvements

can be made with the PAR Excellence model. Obtain input from as many groups in the process as possible. ICU nurses use different supplies than the NICU, [so learn] what is important to each group and how are new workflows going to improve their specific area."

Mehuron emphasizes that attention should be given to room layouts and available square footage.

"PAR Excellence is customizable, but the scales and bins may require more space than prior systems," he said. "The item counts between a regular med-surg floor versus an ICU can be two- to-three-fold, particularly for our specialty ICUs. We suggest utilizing mobile racks to mount the scales/bins instead of using wall mounts.

"During COVID we had to quickly react and convert or relocate units," Mehuron recalled. "Having the mobile racks would allow us to quickly unplug and relocate entire sections into new locations without having to involve facilities [management]."

Mehuron also encourages manpower for maintenance because the system requires someone with technical and analytical skills.

"PAR Excellence is a great technology that requires adequate attention and maintenance," he said. "Emphasis should be given on the appropriate number of team members assigned to manage the system. With over 25,000 scales, even a 1% error rate means that we need to follow up on 280 scales, in addition to item conversions and substitutions that require further maintenance."

PAR EXCELLENCE HIGHLIGHTS

 Founded: 1993	 317 Client hospitals and networks	 1.5 MILLION scales installed
 Headquarters: CINCINNATI, OH	7,000 Departments including: Surgery, Pharmacy, Nursing, Storerooms ,Central Sterile, Ambulatory, Non-acute	Perfect for COUNTLESS products including: catheters, CPTs, drapes, forceps, gloves, gowns, linens, medication, respiratory, shampoo, stents, sutures, trocars, wires ...and more!
 Employees: 109		