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# Realising the power of accurate healthcare information

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*Serving a population of over 600,000 people in Southern Derbyshire, around a million patients visit the trust each year.*

## The challenge

The trust had a number of different stock management systems for wards and theatres, which were time-consuming and unwieldy to manage. Like most other NHS trusts, University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust (UHDB) needed to control spend, make savings and maximise the amount of revenue brought in through recharging. Existing systems did not allow the trust to develop accurate patient-level costing and financial control for stock and stock usage.

It was also difficult to trace items implanted or used on patients, for recall purposes, as this involved a manual process. To protect patient safety, a faster and more efficient tracking process was required.

## The solution

Working closely with the trust, in 2014 Prospitalia h-trak developed an automated General Theatre supply chain solution comprising materials management and procedure costing using the h-trak system, underpinned by a comprehensive database of over 1.2 million barcoded items.

Core to the solution is the patient – and the importance of capturing data at the point of surgical care. Using the h-trak handheld scanner, staff at the trust now record details of the patient from the wristband before capturing all consumables, instruments and implants; the staff involved and the actual (rather than planned) OPCS codes – ready for costing.

The h-trak materials management software within the theatre stock rooms then detects stock usage so that stock requests can be sent to UHDB's procurement system.



Having rapidly learned the value that procedure-level information brings, the trust undertook a phased roll-out of the h-trak system so it is now in full use across all 39 operating rooms, labs or procedure rooms. To date UHDB has captured and costed over 180,000 procedures.

In early 2016 UHDB was selected as one of the six Department of Health Scan4Safety demonstrator sites – and in September 2017, the trust was independently audited and acknowledged as the first site to successfully meet the required GS1 and PEPPOL Scan4Safety standards for materials management, purchase-to-pay and product recall.

*“Implementing the h-trak system at Derby was originally meant to just improve stock usage and control information,” notes Kevin Downs, Director of Finance & Performance.*

*“It has now evolved into a system that improves patient safety in theatres and produces detailed patient-level costing information.”*

