



STERILE SERVICE TRACKING WITH PASSIVE RFID

Improved management of surgical instruments with automated tracking

Sterile equipment is constantly being transported through a cycle of operating rooms, cleaning processes and storage rooms. Therefore, knowing where available items are, is crucial to the efficient running of sterile service departments.

RFID Discovery provides real-time location information on surgical trays and endoscopes to improve the utilisation, management and auditing of assets.

Strategically placed readers automatically detect the movement of assets from operation rooms, to decontamination and back to storage, providing visibility of the whole flow of equipment.

By working with selected solution providers for the management and cleaning of surgical instruments, we are able to provide a full track and trace solution which offers the option of GS1 compliant tags and improves efficiency and patient safety.

Having visibility of the locations of surgical equipment also helps to improve utilisation levels to drive down capital costs, whilst the ability to identify individual endoscopes and other items supports incident reporting. It can also improve the flow of sterile equipment as issues such as bottlenecks and mislaid assets can be easily detected and the situation rectified.



Key Benefits

- ▶ Real-time visibility of stock levels and equipment availability
- ▶ Improved compliance and patient safety
- ▶ Accurate utilisation data helps reduce stock levels whilst ensuring sufficient equipment is always available
- ▶ Less time spent looking for instruments and trays
- ▶ GS1 compliant



How does sterile services tracking work?

The system

Fixed RFID readers are fitted to the entrance and exit of the decontamination areas, the autoclave and sterile storerooms, as well as in theatres where the equipment is used. In addition, mobile readers can be used to detect specific items of equipment. Each item to be tracked, for example instrument tray or endoscope, is fitted with a specialist passive RFID tag which can withstand standard sterilisation procedures and is suitable for going through an autoclave.



Passive RFID tag on sterilisation tray

Location data

Signals from these tags are picked up by a reader which sends this location information to the central RFiD Discovery database. This provides increased visibility of where tagged items are at any point in time, to help locate them quickly and reduce the time spent searching for them if, for example, they are currently in use in an operation or have been stored in the wrong location.

Utilisation

Live visibility of sterile surgical equipment means hospitals can monitor how often items are being used and how many are available at any particular time. This supports decision making on required stock levels to cut expenditure for unnecessary just-in-case items whilst ensuring there are always sufficient instruments available to cope with demand.



Why choose RFiD Discovery?

RFiD Discovery is the recognised brand name for radio frequency identification solutions from Paragon ID, a global leader in identification solutions. Used in a growing number of hospitals across the UK for over 12 years, RFiD Discovery is the number one choice for active and passive RFID systems.

Paragon ID is largest manufacturer of passive RFID labels in Europe and accredited to ISO 9001.

