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Supporting our



Case Study

Leeds General Infirmary

Beating deadlines to bring nurse call systems back online for COVID-19 patients

Overview

Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust is one of the largest teaching hospitals in Europe, a regional and national centre for specialist treatment playing a leading role in research, education and innovation. It is also the local hospital for the Leeds community.

In order to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Trust decided to reopen three wards (X31, X34, and X37) on its Leeds General Infirmary site. Prior to the pandemic, two of the wards had been repurposed; Ward X37 was being used as office space and Ward X34 had been fully remodelled as an education centre (although the nurse call system had been left in place). Ward X31 was not being used clinically.

The Trust appointed DD Porter as its building contractor on the project and JA Richardson as its electrical contractor. As the Trust's nurse call provider, Static Systems Group (SSG) was commissioned to bring the wards' redundant nurse call systems back online.

Andrew Hussey, Account Manager at SSG, comments: "We have a longstanding relationship with Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. Multiple generations of our nurse call technology have been installed on the Leeds General Infirmary site and have been modified and adapted to suit the changing requirements of the hospital over the years. We've worked closely with local M&E contractors and our own installers to undertake work at the majority of sites within the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, including Leeds General Infirmary, St. James', Seacroft, Chapel Allerton Hospital and the Leeds Cancer Centre. We were delighted to be asked to assist with this prominent project to enable the Trust to treat COVID-19 patients."



Ward 37: Pictured before the refurbishment to accommodate COVID-19 patients.

Our challenge

All three wards already had our Codemlon™ nurse call solution in place, but as the systems had been installed over seven years ago and had not been used for some time, we were commissioned by the Trust to bring them back online. In order to do this, we had to undertake substantial recommissioning to bring the nurse call systems in line with the latest HTM compliance. The systems had been used for spares and two of the three had missing power supply units. The systems were thoroughly fault tested and replacement parts fitted where necessary.

The system on ward X37 had been isolated down one side so a second loop circuit was installed in order to bring it back online. This approach avoided wasting time on tracing the original wiring and locating the breaks. Handsets and a number of damaged call points were also replaced. The systems were then reprogrammed with the latest software versions and the address labels reviewed before handover.

Given the increase in the number of cases of COVID-19 during this time, the Trust set a very tight timescale for the wards to open to patients. The original handover deadline was the end of April, but this was brought forward by almost three weeks to April 10th. SSG successfully completed all necessary works in just 16 days – from the initial site survey on March 25th to the handover of all three wards on April 9th. We completed all our site labour within a six-day period. ▶



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SSG ref: 580 (06/2020)



SSG has been the Trust's preferred nurse call technology provider since 1979

Our approach

We held an initial meeting and conducted a visual system survey prior to making our recommendations to the Trust. We also undertook a secondary system survey, including powering up and fault finding. We reported back to the Trust and then agreed the solutions for the wards and the recommissioning pathway. Throughout the project we liaised closely with the electrical contractor, JA Richardson and completed the final test and commissioning before the handover to the Trust one day ahead of its deadline.

All three wards, which have between 20 and 25 beds each, are now equipped with the latest version of Codemlon™, our addressable loop wired nurse call solution which is designed to support improved patient safety and well-being, and to provide an extensive range of advanced healthcare communication solutions, including smart device integration for enhanced staff efficiency.

The patient hand units supplied as part of the nurse call system refurbishment, contain the Biomaster silver-based antimicrobial agent which is incorporated during the manufacturing process to help further strengthen the infection control measures instigated by the hospital.

Responding quickly and adapting to a changing schedule

Andy Wiggins, Electrical Designer, Capital Projects at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, comments: “SSG has been our preferred nurse call technology provider since 1979 so we have a very good relationship with them and know that we can always rely on them to provide robust and cost-effective solutions. For this particular project, the team at SSG were able to respond quickly and adapt to a changing schedule. This was a very high-profile project within the Trust, and it was essential that SSG could deliver the installation on time – as they did – as the wards form a key part of our COVID-19 treatment plan. We have been very impressed with the solutions and the level of service that SSG has delivered on this key project.”



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