

Tyneside facility's flexible choice

Wandsworth Group has installed its IPiN Ethernet-based nurse call system into a live environment within the Cardiac Ward, Accident & Emergency Unit, and Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU) of South Tyneside District Hospital as part of a rolling upgrade.

Its team has already completed the installation in the A&E, Integrated Emergency Care, SCBU, and Wards 6 and 7, as part of the general refurbishment programme. IPiN units were installed for each of the 30 beds in Ward 6, which combines cardiac care and integrated emergency provision. The SCBU installation saw six units installed on medical service columns. Wandsworth and the South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust will move on to the next phase of the refurbishment gradually, 'providing the flexibility and future-proofing advantages offered by IPiN across the hospital'.

Wandsworth's Dave Aubrey explains: "The IPiN system offers the flexibility of a wireless system, with hard-wired reliability, in a highly functional nurse call system that is simple for patients to use, and offers advanced functionality for nursing staff and hospital management. The full colour touchscreen nurses' station display unit locates and prioritises calls, while the Ethernet-based system records valuable management data. IPiN's hard-wired nature allows its integration with a traditional 'lamps' system, while offering future flexibility to reconfigure without having to re-wire."



Courting success

Abbey Court Independent Hospital, a purpose-built facility in Cheshire for people with dementia and other mental health needs, has installed C-TEC's Quantec addressable call system.

C-TEC said: "Quantec's powerful features help to save staff time, minimise disturbance, and improve patient care, at the 30-bedroomed Warrington hospital.

"The system's unique staff pendants ensure that patients receive the highest care at the facility, which incorporates a 20-bedroomed unit housing people living with dementia, and a 10-bedroomed unit for people with severe and enduring mental health problems. The pendants – each programmed with a unique 'user ID' – allow nursing or security staff entering rooms to log their 'attendance' via infrared



call point or receiver. By clicking their special infrared pendant, every visit is logged in Quantec's data logger or Surveyor software."

Graham Bell of Solid State, the specialist electrical installation company, said: "With Quantec's 'Attendance' feature, managers can rest assured that patients are being cared for and regularly checked on, and staff can prove that they are doing their job properly."

Easy-to-use, durable, with 'e-logging'

Medicare says its HTM series Nurse Call system has been designed both to be very easy to use, and to withstand the rigours of the hospital and care home market.

The touchscreen display panels allow staff to accept calls, which informs all other staff that the call is being dealt with, while a mute facility is included to reduce sound intrusion. Both the call-accept and mute facility are only temporary; if the original call is not reset within 90 seconds, the panels will reinstate the call and sound.

The company said: "Our latest innovation is e-logging, a feature which means users are not restricted to viewing call data and reports on specific PCs. The data can instead be viewed on any PC or Android phone anywhere in the world using the new Medicare secure server. e-logging provides customised reports, which can be produced for specific management personnel, with the



data viewable on the customer's own secure web page." All reports can be downloaded to a printer, while email reports can be set up automatically.

The system's call points use HTM colouring for each call type, and each button is raised to assist residents with poor eyesight. The labels for both the call point and pear-push lead (handset) are embedded with Microban to protect against bacteria, and are luminous, making them easy to find in the dark.

Cost-efficient monitoring

Aid Call says wireless nurse call systems such as those it supplies 'provide all the functionality and reliability of a hard-wired system, but with greater flexibility, and more powerful features and functionality'.

The company said: "Our flexible system is modular, and can be moved around and added to as required. Wireless nurse call systems are quick and easy to install, and infinitely changeable and expandable, giving user organisations the

ability to deal quickly and easily with ever-changing clinical priorities and demands."

Aid Call, whose North East England-based parent, Tynetec, has recently been acquired by electrical manufacturer, Legrand (see also page 15), has over 30 years' experience in the design, manufacture, and installation, of nurse call systems, and 'a proven track record of over 3,000 installations nationwide'. It added: "Our wireless nurse call system is safe, reliable, and available at a fraction



of the cost of a hard-wired system. It is easy to install, and simple to use, providing maximum flexibility to meet the needs of patients and nursing staff."

Wireless system 'completes family'

Fusion-IP Aspire, a new radio-based nurse call system from Static Systems Group (SSG), is fully compatible with other Static Systems equipment, and adds a wireless option to the ever-growing Fusion-IP range of nurse call solutions.

Director of Marketing, Phil Wade, said: "It is clear to us that no nurse call system solution fits all. The addition of Aspire provides a complete family of wired and wireless solutions catering for all healthcare environments."

The design brief demanded that the look of the Aspire devices conformed to that of existing, widely used SSG equipment,

so patients and staff would be familiar with the equipment, wired or wireless. Other key considerations included cost-competitiveness and easy set-up, using an 'out of the box, ready to go' approach.

Alongside an RNIB-endorsed, waterproof patient hand unit, features include a 'two-way health-check for unrivalled system integrity', and 'exceptionally low power consumption'. Like other Fusion-IP solutions, Aspire can operate in standalone mode, or alongside a wired system, and, being IP-based, will connect with a site's LAN.

"While we see Aspire as most suited to low acuity environments, or as a

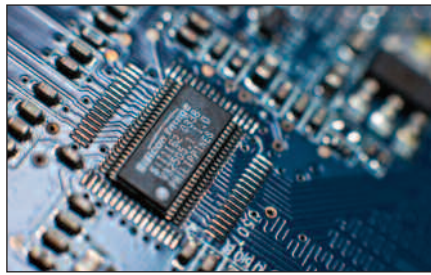


temporary system for use during ward upgrades, our constant goal is to understand our clients' needs, and offer pragmatic advice on the best solution," explained Phil Wade.

'Exceptional service' is the key to company's success

Sanco UK, an independent, Herefordshire-based call system provider that provides and supports call systems nationwide, says it can service and repair many different nurse call systems and handsets, and is a strong believer in 'never throwing anything away'.

Established in 1987, the firm says: "Numerous customers have benefitted



from our stocks of aftermarket equipment and spares, turning long waiting times into a thing of the past." It adds: "From the beginning, when call systems were based on solid copper, pear push, and indicator, Sanco has been there during the transition to the latest third generation technology. The key to us still being here, among the large providers, is our exceptional service."