

# Automated dispensing systems: improving and digitising medicines optimisation

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## What was done

Trust-wide implementation of Automated Dispensing Systems, initially to drive safer and legislative compliance with storage. Since implementation, we have improved management of medicines during shortages, taken waste out of operational delivery around supply of medicines, informed teams around medicines safety during heat waves, and we are on a journey to closed loop medicines administration.

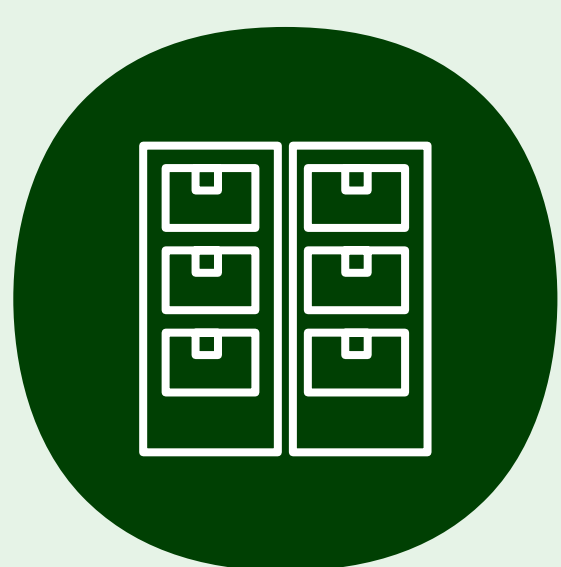
## Why was it done

Medicines storage was low tech in a new high tech Private Finance Initiative (PFI) hospital and security was operationally heavy on nursing teams. The trust was on a journey to Electronic Patient Records (EPR). What was needed was a solution that bought both challenges together - how we implement improved medicines storage that fully leverage the power of a hospital EPR system.

## How it was done

A business case recognizing the reputational impact of poor Care Quality Commission (CQC) assessment of security, nurse led audit work recognising the impact of medicines handling on Time to Care and recruiting enthusiasts to support the program.

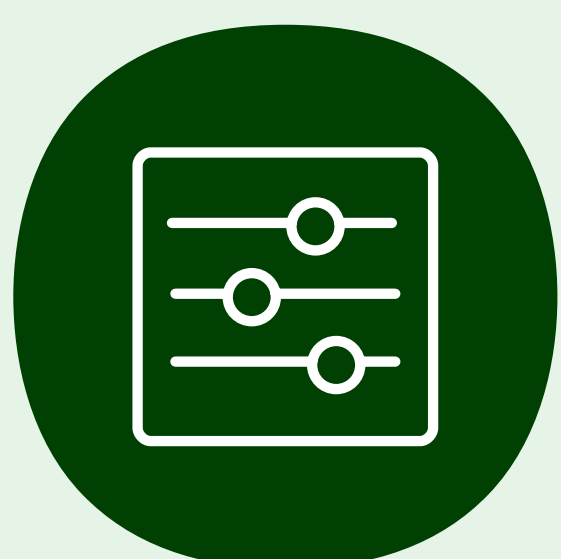
## What was achieved



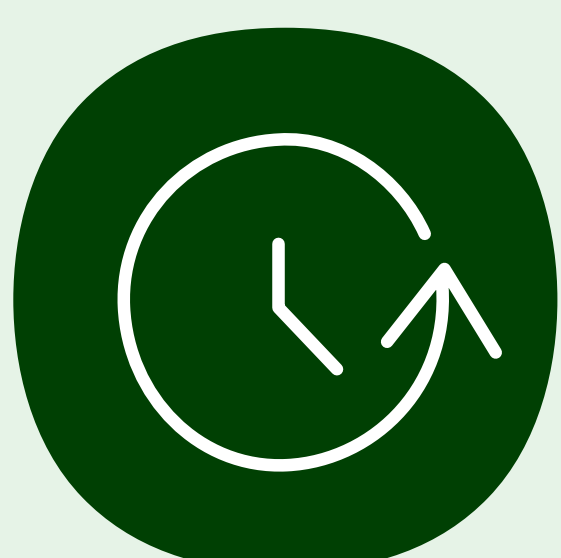
All wards and departments have automated dispensing systems for medication storage - 72 units, including two in pharmacy for controlled drugs and after-hours support.



Medication Safety officer (MSO) used live view to track high risk medicines throughout covid and beyond. Never missed a dose of high-risk medicines by utilising this technology over the covid period.



Temperature monitoring gives an overview of real time temperature of all stock areas to support informed decision-making during hot and warm weather.



Digital ordering by automated dispensing systems has reduced nurse time handling medicines by using pharmacy team time saved from ordering medicines redeployed to fill cabinets instead of nurses.



Increasing breadth of stock holding as top up thrice or more weekly rather than just weekly across Trust.

## What is next

- Planning benefits of integrating a robot dispensing system and hospital information system next spring.
- Robotic storage supporting real time medicines management from stock to temperature all with enhanced security and removes process waste from process especially when combined with other digital initiatives.
- Trust Go-Live with Cerner in spring 2023 and use of cabinets to support closed loop administration.

