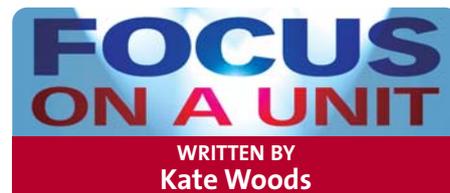


# Bringing real-time patient data to the cotside



**A**t the GPR Rüsselsheim Hospital in Rhein-Main-Dreieck, Germany, the construction of a new NICU last year included the installation of a Draeger Infinity Omega® system.

The children's ward has 40 beds with six in the NICU. Approximately 800 babies are born in the hospital each year with around 100 being treated in intensive care. The hospital serves approximately 300,000 inhabitants and also cooperates with a childbirth clinic for sick newborns from Hessen who are delivered in Mainz. A specialised service for pregnant women with thrombosis risk factors draws patients from an even larger catchment area.

The NICU is located in a new building next to the delivery room and operating room. Construction plans for a perinatal centre are in place.

An important part of equipping the new unit was the Draeger monitoring system. Explaining the reasons for acquiring the system, Lead Medical Technician Armin Frey said: "We were no longer able to operate our old monitoring systems due to a lack of replacement parts and an obsolete network, so it was necessary to buy new."

A combination of Infinity Delta patient monitors and Infinity Explorer point-of-care workstations has improved the hospital's ability to monitor patient data in real-time.

Regarding the choice of system for patient monitoring throughout the hospital, Department Head Dr Michael Polz said: "We wanted to be equipped for the future, with a system that would not become obsolete anytime soon. We were impressed with the practicality of this system and with its ability to network;



GPR Rüsselsheim, Germany.



the fact that laboratory results and images are accessible at the bedside directly.

"Continuous measurement of standard values has long been available, however the new monitors can show trends in more detail and greater variety than our previous systems," Dr Polz added. "We use this option more often now. When I arrive on the ward in the morning, I can quickly see how the patients came through the night."

Data and alarms of other patients can be accessed from any bed. "I don't have to go to each bed when an alarm sounds, but acknowledge the alarm wherever I am," said nursing director Manuela Hopfinger.

The data from ongoing monitoring is accessible from various PC workstations throughout the hospital. The Delta monitor is used in the delivery room or OR in combination with the resuscitation unit and, later, the transport incubator. Once in the NICU, the monitor can be tied into central monitoring. The vital signs data obtained during first-line treatment and transport is saved and can be retrieved at any time. Postoperative monitoring of infants can be started in the OR, which ensures that monitoring is seamless. Even if the child is transferred, the monitor can be sent along.

Lack of funds has delayed the implementation of electronic chart management throughout the entire hospital, so while preparations for conversion are being made, paper documentation is still used in the NICU.

The unit mostly uses the system for

accessing laboratory results. "We quickly got accustomed to accessing the information at any time and it's something we wouldn't want to do without," said Dr Polz. "Our X-ray department will be fully digital soon, then we'll be able to access images at the bedside directly – to retrieve an image on the status of a catheter, for example."

Dr Polz finds the new system particularly useful in everyday clinical use, for example a recent situation in which the condition of an infant on the unit had deteriorated and sepsis was suspected. Blood had already been taken by the time Dr Polz arrived to examine the infant and await the results. He was able to stay with the child and the laboratory results came to him, informing him if the clinical findings had changed.

Personnel shortages, due to illness for example, still cause problems, even with the new system. However, with data from the lab, X-ray department and so on close by, a lot of steps and time are saved, ultimately benefitting the patients. Although no studies have been made into the system's effect on efficiency, an increasing number of patients are being cared for by the same number of staff, so improved efficiency is a given.

"With this system of patient monitoring, we have the possibility to spend more time caring for infants and help them get better. That alone is vital," concluded Dr Polz.

## Is your unit special?

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