



“The equipment swap has simplified workflows considerably and has also helped us improve patient care during transfer from the theater to the recovery room.”

Andreas Wenger - Head of Operations, Anesthesia Department at Hirlanden Klinik Aarau

Customer

Hirlanden Klinik Aarau,
Switzerland

Challenge

Improve the efficiency of processes in the anesthesia department without compromising the quality of care.

Our solution

Philips IntelliVue transport monitors enable efficient continuous monitoring – increasing patient throughput for lower patient wait times and higher case load.

Results

- Decreased time between surgical cases by an average of 5 minutes 30 seconds
- Eliminated gap in monitoring during patient transport of just under 15 minutes

Mission critical: how Hirlanden Klinik Aarau is improving patient monitoring and throughput

Gaps in patient monitoring during in-hospital transitions of acute patients to and from procedures can be dangerous for the patient and leave providers with incomplete medical records.

When Swiss hospital Hirlanden Klinik Aarau replaced the fixed and wall-mounted patient monitoring equipment in its anesthesia department with Philips IntelliVue mobile monitors it benefited in two ways: by reducing the turnaround time in surgical cases by an average of 5 minutes and 30 seconds to increase patient throughput, and by eliminating a gap in monitoring of just under 15 minutes, which helped to support the hospital's goals to improve patient care.

Hirslanden Klinik Aarau, Switzerland

Hirslanden Klinik Aarau, which treats more than 10,000 inpatients each year, is the largest private hospital in the Swiss plateau between Bern and Zurich. It is one of 18 hospitals run by the Hirslanden Private Hospital Group, many of which have an outpatient surgical center and an emergency department. The group also runs four outpatient practice centers, 17 radiology centers and five radiotherapy centers. This makes it the largest medical network in Switzerland.

Improving patient care by closing gaps in monitoring

In-hospital transitions of acute patients to and from procedures can be time consuming and create bottlenecks in staff workflow. When there are gaps in monitoring – created for example by the need to detach and reattach sensors from wall-mounted equipment in different rooms – these transitions can also be potentially dangerous for the patient.

In summer 2013, Hirslanden Klinik Aarau hoped to improve the clinical workflow in its surgical department by replacing the conventional, wall-mounted patient monitoring equipment with a portable solution.

Philips worked with the hospital to replace patient monitoring in all anesthesia-related rooms. The scope of the project included using Philips IntelliVue X2 monitors in all operating theaters with induction rooms, recovery rooms and the intensive care unit.

Because the IntelliVue X2 monitor is small and portable, it only needs to be attached to the patient once and then accompanies them all the way from the induction room to the operating theater, right through to the recovery room—eliminating up to two sensor attachment and removal procedures.

As well as replacing the fixed monitors without any service interruptions, Philips provided customer-specific configuration and user training on the new monitors.

Three months later: improved workflows and continuous care

Philips also sent a team to measure whether the hospital achieved its initial goals. To do so, the team monitored perioperative process times during two three-day visits – once immediately before and once three months after the swap.

Non-stop patient monitoring: the anesthesia department eliminated a gap in patient monitoring during critical patient transport of just under

15 minutes



They found that the elimination of workflow steps helped to save an average of five minutes 30 seconds per case. Whereas patients previously had to go without physiological monitoring during transfer from the induction room to the theater and, most notably, to the recovery room immediately after the procedure, the portable X2 monitor now enables patient monitoring without interruption during these particularly delicate stages – eliminating a gap of just under 15 minutes.

Improved staff workflow: turnover time required for anesthesia-related tasks in between surgical cases reduced by an average of

5 minutes 30 seconds

