

PATIENT TRACKING: AUTOMATED DISCHARGE

Reduce Lost Bed Time with Real-Time Patient Tracking. Many hospitals struggle with knowing when a bed is truly vacated and available to be cleaned, which negatively affects capacity. And, inefficiencies in patient flow processes reduce usable capacity by as much as 20 percent.

Historically, bed availability has been driven by the ADT systems and nurse facilitated discharge notifications to inform Environmental Services (EVS) of a vacated bed (dirty/unoccupied). This method is latent: it often takes hours after a patient leaves for beds to be marked as vacated.

Many hospitals have put best practices in place that utilize patient transport staff and automated transport dispatch solutions such as TeleTracking's TransportTracking™ application to trigger the dirty bed notification as soon as the discharge transport job begins, and well before ADT discharge messaging occurs. This significantly improves the pace of dirty bed notification and bed turns. Still, even the best run hospital operations experience an estimated 25% of discharges without the assistance of a transporter. Further, many intra-facility patient transfers, such as those from the perioperative suite are performed by clinical staff, and do not involve patient transport staff.

The reality is — most hospitals struggle with compliance and/or latent ADT discharge transactions. Many patients physically leave the facility without a formal process.

So, when is a bed truly vacated and available for cleaning?

Today, TeleTracking has integrated its Real-Time Locating System (RTLS)

capabilities with its patient flow solutions to speed dirty bed notification and improve bed turn times.

Using Patient Tracking to Instantly Discharge a Patient Reduces Lost Bed Time, Saves Time and Reduces Costs

By combining the most accurate and immediate RTLS technology with our market-leading patient flow applications, TeleTracking solutions are positioned to capture virtually all vacated bed actions in real-time to significantly improve the availability of beds. Leveraging RTLS capabilities enables TeleTracking's Capacity Management™ Suite to receive a real-time trigger to change a discharged patient's assigned bed to unoccupied/dirty when the discharge process has been initiated and they leave the room. This real-time process sets off automated workflow processes to make beds available as quickly as possible. By tracking patients with an RTLS patient badge, dirty beds can be automatically triggered in discharge or transfer scenarios, based on the patient's real-time location and status — well before ADT processing has occurred, and independent of transport method.

Better capacity management is a key financial strategy for healthcare executives. When Patient Tracking is integrated with TeleTracking's Capacity Management™ Suite, hospital leadership can improve admission rates and increase revenue from existing capacity by making beds available faster.

* KEY BENEFITS

- Increase discharge efficiencies by knowing when a bed has been vacated in real-time
- Improve patient throughput for greater revenue opportunities
- Increase capacity by up to 20% more without adding new beds

◎ BENEFITS REALIZED

Sharp HealthCare:

- Beds made available quicker, revenues increased
- Decreased time it takes to get a patient to a room from admit order to occupy by 191 minutes

HOW IT WORKS

With Patient Tracking, location and status data from a badged patient can be used to indicate beds as vacated. There are two primary workflows to drive immediate notification of vacated dirty beds. These processes can be used separately or in combination, to allow maximum flexibility to support the natural discharge workflow at your facility.

DROP BOX METHOD



Patient is assigned RTLS badge at admission



Patient badge is removed at discharge and placed in a specific 'drop-box' as the patient departs



Discharge event automatically sent to TeleTracking system



Dirty bed workflow instructions triggered — well before ADT and independent of transport method



Dirty/unoccupied bed notification occurs in real-time

BADGE DETECTION METHOD



Patient is assigned RTLS badge at admission



Patient is physically detected in a designated discharge location and has a status of confirmed discharge



Dirty bed workflow instructions triggered — well before ADT and independent of transport method



Dirty/unoccupied bed notification occurs in real-time

WORKFLOWS