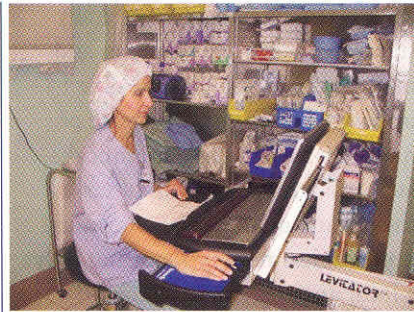


Harbor Hospital Uses Wireless Computer System in OR

A new wireless system has been implemented throughout the operating rooms at Harbor Hospital. The system, called in short COW (Computer on Wheels), is a Picis, or Perioperative Information System, which helps track the status of patients before, during and after their procedures. The technology allows updates to patient files to be done more quickly and more accurately.

Picis operates off the CISCO Wireless network system. There are five wireless nodes located throughout the Harbor Hospital OR suite; these nodes pick up a signal from the mainframe and send that signal to the wireless Winterm, which is a PC smaller than a laptop located on each COW.



A Harbor Hospital nurse consults the Computer on Wheels (COW). The technology allows nurses to more actively assist physicians during procedures in the OR.

because it contains built-in logic and drop-down screens. The speed of the program also allows complete documentation, charting and billing to be done at one time. Edits to patients' charts can be done in real time and once a case is completed, a copy is ready for the patient showing every billable item, should records need

reviewed monthly. Variance reporting supplies physicians and the nursing staff with a list of all elements that have the potential to affect the outcome of a procedure. This sets Harbor Hospital apart from the rest; no other system facility documents each individual case. Harbor Hospital is also the first in its system to be fully operational with Picis.

In addition to aiding the medical team, Picis benefits patients by guarding against error. Picis only allows one user to be active in a patient's file. Once a physician or nurse opens a case, other users can only view that case — they cannot update it. Partnered with this feature is Auditrail, which records the person who logged in and the information updated.

Although Picis provides benefits to patients, nurses and physicians, it is the wireless aspect of the technology that enhances each of these benefits; the OR COWs themselves are the most beneficial aspect of this wireless system. These COWs make it possible for the nursing staff to actively assist physicians in each procedure because they are no longer continually working at a nearby wall. Now, Harbor OR nurses are able to assist during every aspect of the procedure since each COW is battery-powered and can function for 14 hours before recharging. ■

“COWs make it possible for the nursing staff to actively assist physicians in each procedure.”

Picis is a comprehensive OR manager with multi-facility capability. The system handles scheduling, preference cards, billing, supply inventory, documentation and reporting. With computers in all the rooms, including patient, endoscopy and the lung center rooms, patients' charts can be updated as needed.

Benefits of the new system are numerous. To the trained user, the system is much faster than writing

to be verified with a medical insurance company. Also, this system provides a simplified way to track inventory. Nurses can mark the quantity used, and now for the first time, they have a way to mark what was opened but not used, thus reducing problems in keeping track of inventory.

Another feature of this highly advanced system is variance reporting, which will be performed at the end of each procedure and