

RFID in Healthcare



In hospitals and health establishments, it is important to know where critical equipments are and when you need them in addition to the state of instruments. The use of RFID gives you a real time location and report on the activities of these instruments, uniforms and apparatus by tracking using simple UHF Gen 2 readers and RFID healthcare tags. The use of RFID improves asset utilization rates, reduce expenses and improve patient outcomes.

Tracking hospital equipment and usage of equipment is a monumental task if it is not automated. Once RFID Hospital technology is implemented the tracking becomes very simple and automated given you a Real Time Location System

(RTL).

The following gives a synopsis of how hospitals and health-care institutions can utilize real-time location systems (RTL) to improve their service delivery:

1. **Improve staff, patient and asset workflow** – for example critical equipments that need maintenance or refilling can be flagged or alarmed with RFID Hospital Technology which will make sure that all is in order at utmost state of use.
2. **Reduce errors and incidence of lost or stolen equipment** - you can do a 'where is' or what equipment, sterilizer unit, defibrillator, aspirators etc., is supposed to be in a particular room or theater.
3. **What is supposed to be in a room** - A single read on a low cost door tag can provide that information. You simply tag all of the items in the room including patients that you wish to monitor using the right tag for the type of material that you are tagging. Then tag the room door with a master tag. To take inventory of the room the person just reads the door master tag with a portable wireless reader and then reads the tags in the room - if an item is read that should not be there the user is alerted visually and audibly and then can move that item to the correct location. Pressing another key on the hand held reader displays any items missing - simple, easy and quick.
4. **Where is that piece of surgical equipment that is needed for operating room?** This is the typical question that is asked when getting the theater ready for surgery. Using UHF Gen 2 you can create zones in departments using up to 4 antennas per reader - this allows an RFID system to automatically determine if equipment is moving in and out of zones and what the equipment is. You can easily add an alert to a specific tag so that when the piece of equipment is moved someone gets notified - easy to control where things are and where they should stay.