



T-DOC is at the heart of everything we do.

Getinge's T-DOC sterile supply management and traceability solution plays a core role in Dorset County Hospital's mission to deliver top-class patient care. T-DOC has helped the British hospital improve instrument turnaround time, enhance patient safety and improve the relationship between its CSSD and surgical department.



Kate Still, Decontamination Services Manager at Dorset County Hospital, UK

"T-DOC is the foundation of every part of the decontamination service. Quite simply, I wouldn't want to manage my CSSD without it."

Located in Dorchester, Dorset County Hospital is part of the Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust that treats more than 100,000 patients every year. After introducing T-DOC in 2003, the hospital has since added new T-DOC features on a regular basis to achieve higher efficiency and maximize key benefits.

Dorset County Hospital uses T-DOC to support its central sterile services, including endoscopy decontamination. The solution ensures that resources are optimized at all times and provides vital backup to CSSD staff by warning them of any anomaly or potential mistake.

"In decontamination you are always living with the fear that you might inadvertently send out a non-decontaminated set of equipment. T-DOC doesn't allow you to do that."

According to Kate Still, T-DOC is indispensable in such a critical process as decontamination, which has so many vital elements. T-DOC, she says, is invaluable as a safety net because it eliminates risk and gives CSSD staff the assurance that they will not miss any crucial step in the decontamination process, she explains.

"As a manager, T-DOC enables me to monitor production and use staff flexibly by moving them across the different areas of production depending on the level of activity. I can also access reports that help me to identify usage levels of particular consumables and to order replacement stock when necessary, rather than holding high levels of stock. This helps with budget management."

"T-DOC is pivotal to everything we do. It's my 'eyes and ears' and I know it will alert me to any problem or issue. That gives me and the entire team the confidence we need to do our jobs."

A few years ago the hospital decided to introduce T-DOC into its operating rooms, where it enables patient registration via scanning and end-to-end monitoring of sterile sets.

Everybody, Kate says, is pleased with the T-DOC implementation. Surgical staff appreciate the work done by the CSSD to ensure that everything is ready for their deadlines, and there are no last-minute panics when surgical staff cannot find what they need in time for the surgery. Before T-DOC's web functionality was installed, the surgical staff would make frequent phone calls trying to find things. Now they can simply order via T-DOC and locate instruments themselves.

Dorset County Hospital in numbers:	
No. of beds:	309
No. of employees:	3,000
No. of inpatients/year:	105,000
No. of outpatients/year:	267,000
Average length of stay:	elective 3.3 days non-elective 6.7 days
No. of ORs :	10
No. of surgical procedures/year:	70,000
No. of instruments/ trays sterilized/year:	156,000

The vital element is always patient safety

Using T-DOC in the surgical department has transformed the relationship between surgical staff and the CSSD, Kate reveals.

In the past, lack of accurate information around the availability and location of sets could lead to frustration between the CSSD and surgical department teams. "We've completely turned that around, she says. It's not entirely down to T-DOC, but the solution has definitely helped."

Hospitals are always looking for ways to save money without compromising on patient safety. Using T-DOC's productivity reports, Dorset County Hospital was able to identify a surplus staffing issue in the CSSD at weekends. The hospital also discovered that operating rooms were routinely ordering orthopedic loan sets that were returned unused yet still needed reprocessing before being returned to the loan company.

Kate says: "We trialled reducing hours at the weekend. No one lost their jobs, but we became more efficient. When we uncovered the reprocessing issue, I contacted another department and they were able to review the data with a view to reducing the booking of unnecessary loan sets. In both cases we saved money."

With T-DOC, such gains are measurable. Kate used T-DOC to produce a report showing the exact percentage of loan sets that were being reprocessed and returned without use. It was this data that enabled her and the hospital management to take effective action.

When the CSSD began using T-DOC production data to drive flexible staffing in 2016, the sterile set turnaround time dropped from 19 hours to 16 hours. The figure fell again – to 12 hours – when the T-DOC Fast Track feature was introduced in 2017.



T-DOC also helped when the hospital investigated a spike in post-procedure infections. The CSSD used T-DOC to identify all the sterile equipment used on the group of patients in question and to rule out any link to the CSSD.

"The actual cause was identified and confirmed the assurance I already had that the CSSD was not involved. Without T-DOC and the ease of producing reports, it would have taken much longer to obtain this assurance," Kate explains.

For Dorset County Hospital, the vital element is always patient safety. T-DOC, Kate says, gives her the assurance that mistakes will not be made.

"It gives everyone in the CSSD a security blanket, and at the end of the day, I know, I can go home and sleep at night. To think that people once used to do all these tasks by hand. I wouldn't like to contemplate that!"

About DHS

T-DOC is part of Getinge's Digital Health Solutions, which support hospitals in ensuring more efficient surgical, patient and sterile supply workflows. Though each of the IT solutions covers unique areas of the hospital, they come together in and around the operating room. As a result, tasks are managed in due time and the hospital becomes safe, streamlined and efficient for both staff and patients.

Partnering up with Getinge you can experience benefits such as:

- Scalable, best-in-class solutions tailored to a hospital's specific needs
- Maximized organizational and operational efficiencies
- Increased quality of care through advanced hospital control
- Regulatory compliance through flexible solutions
- Improved working environment through process optimizations
- Data stability and seamless integration with existing IT infrastructure



Digital Health Solutions

Getinge offers a wide range of products, solutions and services that support you through the entire clinical pathway. Our goal is to help you provide excellent care without ever compromising on quality or safety.

With DHS, we offer you a safer, integrated and better utilized facility that supports greater consistency and efficiency, enabling healthcare professionals to focus on delivering the best possible care for patients.

T-DOC is part of our Digital Health Solutions (DHS) offering. It is the top-of-the-line sterile supply management and traceability solution that brings complete overview and integration to the instrument supply chain for the highest standards of safety and utilization, enabling the best possible care for patients.

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This information is intended for a professional audience.

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