

Case Study

Kalmar County Hospital, Sweden

“Superior ergonomics and great for the environment”

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Challenge

Kalmar County Hospital serves some 235,000 people in southeastern Sweden. Cleaning and sterilization of surgical and other instruments is managed in a centralized unit equipped with four Getinge 88T washer-disinfectors. Carts and utensils are cleaned in a Getinge 9100-series cart washer.

Prior to December 2013, the washing and rinsing chemicals used with each unit were purchased and maintained by a separate department and brought manually to the wash room as required. This involved frequent lifting and cumbersome handling of heavy containers every two weeks or so, depending on the workload.

The carrying of liquids also brought an elevated risk of spillage, which called for protective clothing as well as measures to avoid their mixing with regular hospital waste products. Otherwise, the accidental splashing of hazardous washing and rinsing chemicals onto unsuspecting garbage collectors wearing no protective clothing at all might occur.

Also, the frequent manual requisitioning of washing and rinsing chemicals increased the risk of ordering and delivery mistakes.

Prior to December 2013, the manual replenishment involved cumbersome

handling of heavy containers **every 2 weeks**
Now, the central system only needs to be replenished **4 times a year.**

Solution

In December 2013, in conjunction with a general renovation and modernization, the four Getinge washer-disinfectors and the cart washer were linked to a modern Getinge Clean Management System (CMS), a central dosing system for detergents and rinse aids. The CMS supplies detergents and rinse aids from the main tanks to each washer-disinfector.

Now, an easily visible light tower mounted in the ceiling in the CSSD department reveals the current status at all times. At a single glance four led indicator lamps tell the staff everything they need to know:

- Green: OK
- Yellow: Check
- Red: Alarm
- White: Low detergent level

Beyond this simple check, no regular management is required and the central system in Kalmar only needs to be replenished an estimated four times a year.

The system is also designed to connect to Getinge Online, a remote web-based checking system enabling Getinge's service technicians to monitor the system's performance at all times including notifications when the main tank level needs replenishment. In this set-up, chemicals are delivered within 24 hours of ordering.

The hospital is considering a subscription to this service. Kalmar County Hospital nurse Lena Gustavsson feels Getinge Online is a great idea, "but for now, we are ordering detergents manually, and the hospital's service staff helps us get the containers in place. Then, we simply follow Getinge's manual for replacing them. Should we encounter any problems, Getinge has some fantastic engineers that offer any support we may need, either by phone or on-site if necessary."



Benefits

- Easy-to-monitor system status at all times
- No heavy lifting of chemical containers
- No spillage or hazardous chemicals
- All handling at one separate storage room
- Minimal training needs
- Excellent technical support by telephone
- Added technical support and supervision online, and on-site presence within 24 hours



"The transition from old manual routines to the new system has been very smooth – everything has progressed more or less according to plan. Initially, some of us didn't get the air evacuation routine quite right, but we got great help from Getinge's support staff, and we now manage it entirely on our own."

"In 2009, we visited several other hospitals that had a similar system to learn more about it. There was also a more formalized evaluation of its costs and benefits."

Lena Gustavsson, nurse at Kalmar County Hospital

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