

SOLUTIONS

/ Products and services /

Alabama hospital / SPEEDS CLEANING / with visual system

The environmental services staff at St. Vincent's Hospital, Birmingham, Ala., wanted a more efficient way to do their work and to help the hospital

manager can see how long it takes a housekeeper to clean a room.

What's more, the system improves communication between departments. Nurses no longer need to track down environmental services staff when a room is ready to be cleaned because the system keeps all staff members informed of room status at all times.

FIELD REPORT

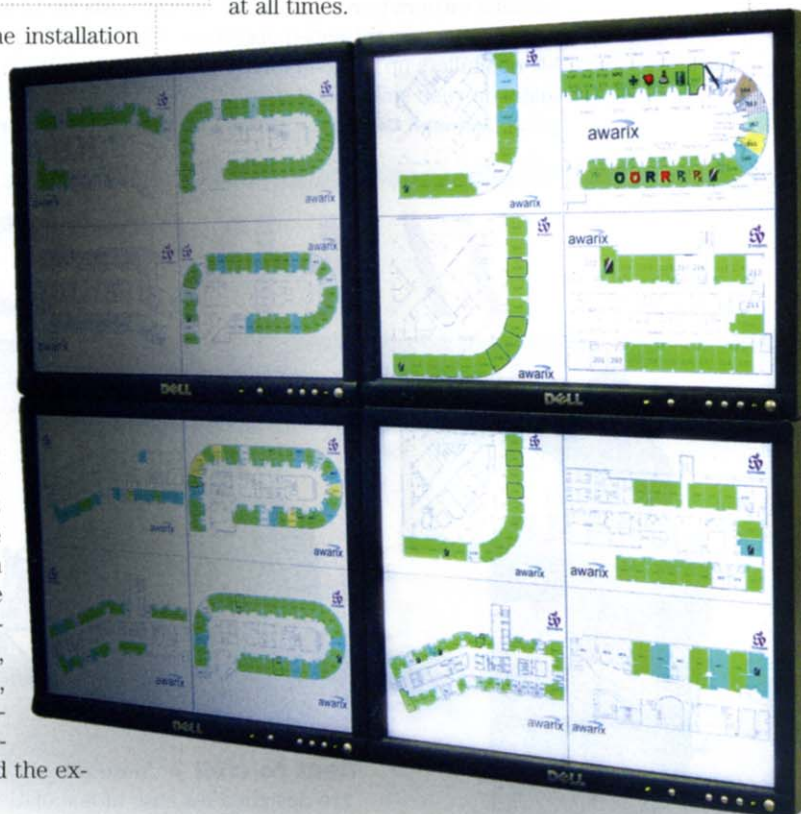
improve capacity management. With the installation of a patient care visibility system from Awarix, Birmingham, Ala., they were able to do just that.

Before the system arrived, environmental services managers had to physically survey the hospital to see where staff would be needed or pull information from a number of different data systems. In addition, nurses and environmental services staff had to notify one another of changes in room status via pager, phone or in person.

Installed in September 2004, the system helps the environmental services department work more productively by providing a view of each patient's status in real time via electronic patient care communication "whiteboards," which contain a graphic representation of the hospital's floor plan. With these whiteboards placed throughout the hospital, environmental services staff members, as well as nurses and departmental managers, have immediate access to information about each patient's location and the expected time of the patient's discharge.

"I can just take a quick look at the board and immediately know where I need staff members and where I do not," explains Archie Henderson, operations manager at St. Vincent's. "Because the system is visual, there's no need to interpret data."

The electronic whiteboards allow managers to monitor staff performance. For example, the



Since implementing the patient care visibility system, the environmental services staff has reduced bed cleaning response time from 30 minutes to 10 minutes after patient discharge. In addition, the hospital has significantly reduced the need to divert patients to other hospitals due to capacity issues. ■

FACILITY NAME /
St. Vincent's Hospital
LOCATION / Birmingham,
Ala.
PRODUCT / Patient care
visibility software
VENDOR / Awarix

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