Not all Pharmacy automation systems are the same!

Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust, United Kingdom

Replacement of a previous medication storage system with Rowa™ Technologies proves to be more efficient and effective.

A smaller footprint of automation technology allowed the Trust to create two new office spaces, incorporating twelve desks in total. In addition the Trust tailored their Rowa Vmax system to allow for direct ward box outputs, negating the need for additional conveyors.
**Facts & Figures**

Rowa Vmax system with Rowa ProLog™
9.80m L x 1.63m W x 2.53m H

Capacity: approx. 20,000 packs

Two picking heads

Self-cleaning module

Five ward box outputs, 5 in- & out-patient outputs

2,000 packs per day

Saving 51 man hours per months

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**Time saving**

The Trust’s previous robot took approximately 56 man hours per month to load. The new Rowa Vmax system in the pharmacy takes an average of five hours per month, saving the Trust 51 man hours per month.

**Space saving**

A smaller robot footprint has meant the Trust has been able to redesign the dispensary and stores space, and allocate the freed up space to two new office spaces, incorporating 12 new desks in total. The Trust has been able to increase the capacity for ward box dispensing by increasing their ward box outputs from one to five.

**Staff satisfaction**

Physically locating an item within the Rowa system is much quicker and easier and the system has a significantly increased picking speed in comparison to the Trust’s previous technology.

1  Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust, Internal Analysis Pre and Post Automation, Northampton, United Kingdom, 2014

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“The time taken in just going and looking for something on a shelf, the time taken in putting it on the shelf in the first place by other staff. It really does save time and consequently you can use that staff for doing something else. They can use their time better for the care of patients, and at patient level rather than being in the store.”

Gianni Facchiano, Chief Pharmacy Technician and Operations Manager, Northampton General Hospital

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