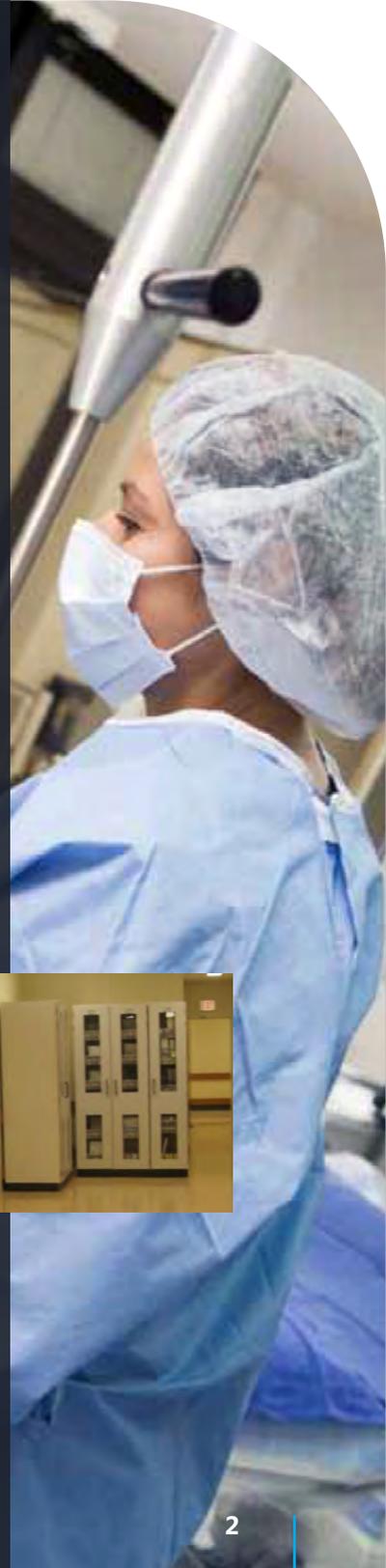


Cath lab in a Heart Institute
**reports compelling ROI
following implementation
of TECSYS solutions**

Success Story

This project generated significant gains through inventory reduction, space savings, access to real-time statistics, a reduction in the time staff spend performing inventory-related tasks, and improved inventory management.



Issues in The Cath Lab

- Disjointed inventory management system requiring the involvement of a host of players
- Manual and error-prone demand capture leading to disruptive stockouts and subsequent overstocking
- Cumbersome consignment item tracking; complex management of recalled products
- Poor inventory rotation resulting in product expiry
- Very limited storage space



The useIT solution to manage

- **General supplies:** RFID-enabled two-bin replenishment solution, to streamline inventory management processes and reduce inventory levels for general supplies.
- **High value items:** the RFID-empowered supply tracking solution, to handle implants and consignment item tracking, reduce expired items and facilitate case costing to provide automated charge capture.

The cath lab personnel at the institute, as locals call it, had their own idea of the "model" inventory management system. The cath lab manager, recalls:

"When the TECSYS team presented their solutions, it became obvious right then and there that they fully understood the particular needs of a specialty care unit like ours. TECSYS solutions are perfectly aligned to our requirements: they reduce our staff's involvement in supply management activities, automatically keep track of consignment items and lot numbers, and flag expired items."



How it works: **General Supplies**

useIT RFID inventory management system for general supplies leverages the kanban replenishment practice which begins with an established quantity of a given item divided into two batches and stored in primary and secondary compartments of a single storage module. When the primary compartment is empty, clinical staff transfer the identification tag (which contains an RFID transponder) to a wall-mounted smartpanel located near the storage unit. They then begin using items from the secondary compartment, which holds a set number of days' worth of inventory. Placing the primary compartment's tag on the smartpanel triggers an automated replenishment request before critical supply thresholds are met. The system transmits the request to a middleware application and, prompted by customizable business rules, onward to the hospital's material management information system, which then generates a pick list for stock items or a requisition for direct purchase items. During their delivery rounds, material management staff transfer the remaining supplies to the primary compartment and replenish the new supplies in the secondary one. This ensures stock rotation and helps prevent stock wastage due to expiration.



How it works: **High Value Items**

Use of this module begins when supplies requiring unitary traceability are received by the hospital. The manufacturer's barcode on each product is scanned to record the serial/lot number and expiry date. The application automatically links this data to the unique identifier of an RFID transponder embedded in a label. The product's designated replenishment location is printed on the label, which is then affixed to the product packaging. The product's delivery to the designated user department room is registered by swiping the package in front of an RFID reader near the entrance. Consumption data is captured when clinical staff dispose of the product's empty packaging in a smartbin™ located in the procedure room. The smartbin is integrated with our clinical user interface or with your existing EMR for patient traceability and to automate the charge capture process.

Based on customizable business rules, a replenishment requisition is triggered. At the same time, the interface engine sends usage data to host applications, such as the material management information system (MMIS), electronic medical record (EMR), and billing application, while building business intelligence and analytics tools ensure fact-driven optimization of the inventory management processes.

Before & After **Analysis**

A before & after analysis revealed that useIT™ delivered significant process improvements and financial gains.

The **Results**

72% reduction in time spent on inventory-related tasks

With the useIT solution managing general supplies, the needs evaluation activity is no longer required, as consumption data is automatically captured through a smartpanel™. This has the added advantages of eliminating errors caused by visual evaluation, namely stockouts and overstocking, and reducing supply personnel trips to the cath lab. As for products requiring unitary traceability, the cath lab clinical staff no longer need to be involved in collecting and transcribing serial or lot numbers. Simply discarding a product's packaging in the smartbin™ automatically transfers the necessary data to generate a replenishment requisition, thus reducing costly ordering errors and delays. Manually tracking expiry dates is also a thing of the past for cath lab personnel. The useIT™ built-in stock rotation feature greatly reduces expired items and provides state-of-the-art automated expiration date and product recall management.

"Before, our Nursing Attendant spent a fair amount of time counting inventory in our storage areas. Our Supply Coordinator then had to create requisitions based on order sheets, which were verified and approved by our Patient Care Manager. Today, our staff only take a few seconds per shift to place replenishment needs on the smartpanel™ located near the storage unit to trigger the replenishment."

18% increase in storage space

Having recently doubled its capacity but not its storage space, the department needed to find a solution to store its supplies. The implemented vertical high-density storage solution has reduced storage space by 18% while providing a well-organized inventory, fixed supply locations, and a visual location system aligned with workflows and clinical procedures. As a result, clinical personnel spend less time searching for and collecting supplies.

Invaluable real-time statistics

The implemented solution features fully customizable automation and business rule settings to manage response decisions and keep reliance on manual processes to a minimum. Compiling consumption data and historical trends of key performance indicators, the system provides real-time feedback in dashboard form to enable informed decision-making.

Return on investment within 5 months

Reporting an ROI of less than five months, the institute is delighted with the value delivered by TECSYS Healthcare. Because the systems automate non-value added activities associated with managing supplies, they eliminate error-prone and time-consuming manual counting and data entry, thus generating noticeable and sustainable improvements in productivity and operational efficiency. Providing for a more tightly-controlled inventory, they reduce shortages and urgent orders, increase inventory turns, and decrease inventory holding costs. With superior features designed to easily manage expiration dates and product recalls, the solutions also increase patient safety and support better utilization of healthcare resources.

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