

# Improving Patient Safety and Reducing Maintenance Issues: Responder's Wireless Bed Interface

FACILITY: University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics

## FACILITY

Ranked as one of the finest academic medical centers in the United States, University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics (UWHC) has been providing quality health care in Wisconsin for more than 75 years. UWHC is recognized as a leader in many fields including cancer treatment, pediatrics and organ transplantation. Its mission is to provide safe, high-quality health care, educate the next generation of health professionals and provide education and outreach services to its residents.

## MISSION

### INCREASE PATIENT SAFETY, REDUCE MAINTENANCE

UWHC faced common maintenance issues that many hospitals experience with feature bed cables. Cables were occasionally damaged when beds moved from room to room, or cables were accidentally plugged in backwards causing shorts on the nurse call system, or cables were lost resulting in a shortage. As a result, the bed exit alarm and nurse call functions were not activated, creating a patient safety issue.

## RESULTS

- „ Over 80% reduction in maintenance/service calls
- „ Improved patient safety with bed functionality
- „ High staff compliance resulting from simplicity
- „ Hassle-free movement of bed relocation



“UWHC realized a drastic reduction, greater than 80%, in bed cable-related calls during our test implementation of the wireless bed interface.”

Ron Brefka, Assistant Director of Facilities

## THE ANSWER

### Responder's Wireless Bed Interface

When Rauland-Borg approached UWHC with a solution to permanently eliminate its bed cables, UWHC saw an opportunity to further their commitment to safety and quality patient care. Rauland-Borg's innovative wireless bed interface replaces the bed cable with a pair of devices that are wirelessly linked through RF (radio frequency) technology.

The result for UWHC? A significant reduction in maintenance and a more reliable communications system with increased patient safety.

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## SIMPLE ACTIVATION, SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT

The simplicity of the wireless bed interface is a significant improvement for the nursing staff at UWHC. Due to its simple one-touch activation, staff immediately supported the new process. "We've received positive feedback from our nursing staff. Prior to the wireless bed interface, bed cables were a challenge. The old hardwired bed cable is difficult to reach and not that easily connected and disconnected. Now however, with the new Rauland-Borg wireless bed interface, nurses can easily 'link' the bed which is much easier and more reliable than using hardwired bed cables..., explained Ron Brefka, Assistant Director of Facilities.

For initial set-up of the wireless bed interface, one device is inserted into the bed receptacle on the wall and the other device is inserted into the receptacle on the bed. For day to day operation, a simple touch of a button on each side 'links' the two devices together through radio frequency to achieve a wireless connection. Any bed can be relocated to another room with a simple one-touch activation. If a bed is moved into a room and the bed is not "linked... to the wall, a reminder tone is activated, reminding staff to activate the feature bed.

## HASSLE-FREE TRANSPORT

Patients at UWHC are transported often and it can take valuable time to locate the cable and connect the bed.

With the new Rauland-Borg wireless bed interface, "you can quickly and easily press the buttons to 'link' the patient bed to the Responder nurse call system,... Ron Brefka commented.

## EASY CLEANING

The wireless technology can benefit housekeeping as well. Once a bed has been wirelessly associated (linked) with a room, staff can easily move the bed for hassle-free cleaning. The bed stays activated wirelessly, maintaining function. This eliminates the need to fumble with a hardwired cable connection.

## WIRELESS BED INTERFACE



„ Simple one-touch feature for activation

„ Notification/reminder tone if bed is not activated

„ Compatible with all feature beds (Stryker, Hill-Rom)

„ Nurse call and bed exit functions remain on life-safety system

„ Utilizes radio frequency (RF) for wireless connection

„ Unprecedented 5-year warranty

## PROTECTING UWHC'S INVESTMENT: COMPATIBILITY

The wireless bed interface is compatible with all Hill-Rom and Stryker feature beds. UWHC was able to use its existing hospital beds, protecting its investment, while implementing the wireless solution. It is common in many facilities to have a mix of different types of hospital beds. With Rauland-Borg's wireless bed interface, there is no need to worry about whether or not the correct cable is in the room for the brand of bed. Any bed can be associated with any room with a simple touch of a button.

## DRAMATIC DECREASE IN MAINTENANCE CALLS

Since the implementation of Rauland-Borg's wireless bed interface, UWHC has seen a significant decrease in maintenance issues on the unit floor where the technology was implemented. "UWHC realized a drastic reduction, greater than 80%, in bed cable calls during our test implementation of the wireless bed interface.... Brefka continued, "We are very pleased with new wireless solution. In fact, we are now in the planning stages of a larger implementation project....

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