

Implementing a New Anaesthetic Information Management System in a Non-NPfit Environment

Dr Philip Barclay, Liverpool Women's Hospital

The Liverpool Women's Hospital was opened in 1995 and was equipped with new Excel 210 SE anaesthetic machines and HP Merlin monitors. These machines reached the end of their service life in March 2009, allowing us to replace them all at once and start from scratch. We decided to see if a single manufacturer could provide a combination of a fully electronic anaesthetic machine, monitoring system and anaesthetic information monitoring software. Being outside the NPfit system and working in a Foundation Trust has allowed us to choose the best available product without having to wait for CSC Release 4. Drager and GE were the only two companies that could meet our requirements. We took great care to treat both companies equally, undertaking factory visits, site visits to UK hospitals and arranging for a thorough in-house evaluation. Whilst the overall scores were within 10%, we reached a unanimous conclusion that GE best suited our needs. A comprehensive staff training timetable was arranged for February prior to introduction of the new machines. However, this was delayed until April when the hospital management felt that the associated slight reduction in list activity would reduce the Trust's year-end financial performance. We are therefore still at the beta testing stage of our Centricity Anaesthesia installation, which will hopefully go live in August.