# Making the Case for Automated Inventory Management

Operating room nurses can spend a significant amount of time per procedure documenting inventory and charges, and that's not counting time spent after a procedure chasing down missing product information. Nurses may spend so much time on supply chain tasks such as inventory management that it can impact their available time and focus on patient care responsibilities.

Imagine a world where an OR nurse can pick a supply and simply wave it across a radio frequency identification (RFID) scanner located at the point of care before use—two steps to associate the product with the patient record.

"Those minutes spent on inventory management can now take just seconds and the RN circulator can focus on the patient and anticipate changes in the patient's condition, instead of standing in front of a computer," according to Ruth Damron, RN, MBA, Cardinal Health™ WaveMark™ a former OR nurse manager with extensive experience in clinical resource management and perioperative supply chain value analysis.

"Inventory management has become so ingrained in workflows that nurses may not realize how much time it takes away from direct patient care," Damron stresses. She also says supply orders are too often based on emotion and order history. This methodology can become uncontrollable and out of balance with constantly changing usage patterns.

## Understand how OR inventory management with RFID technology works

WaveMark™ supply management and workflow solutions have been implemented in more than 150 sites, helping to strengthen visibility, reduce costs and improve overall quality of patient care. The foundation of the solution is a cloud-based platform with advanced analytics supporting informed inventory decisions based on product usage.

Data capture is enabled by a combination of technologies based on the type of supply. Technologies range from RFID-enabled smart cabinets and smart wands for high value implants, to barcode technology for low dollar products that require item-level tracking, down to a 2-bin Kanban system that manages low cost/high use commodity supplies.

"With advanced analytics you create visibility across the enterprise while having the ability to focus on activity in specific areas, such as a hospital site or department," Damron says. The insights captured through advanced analytics includes:

- Usage data such as consumption and product utilization by physicians

- Information on products that are pending expiration or have been recalled

- Savings data that identifies opportunities to standardize

## Calculate your projected ROI

When building a case for automated inventory management, OR leaders can look to data from hospitals already using this solution. Here are a few data points from Emory Saint Joseph's Hospital in Atlanta, a 410-bed facility where WaveMark supply management and workflow solutions have been implemented:

- **Recovered $300,000 in chargeable product costs through active alerts.**

- **Automated 100 percent of expiration and recall alerts.**

- **Saved three hours of labor every day ordering products.**

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Contact WaveMark at **wavemark@cardinalhealth.com** and visit **cardinal health.com/wavemark** to learn more.

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