

EXAMPLE OF “RIGHT PATIENT CARE AT THE RIGHT TIME” SUBMISSION

One of the most talked about topics in healthcare technology today is using Radio-frequency identification (RFID) to track healthcare equipment, supplies, and devices. However, I think it can be difficult to fully understand just how important this technology can be to those who may not regularly spend time in a hospital setting.

During my first clinical this semester, I was stationed in a unit in a Florida hospital. It was a relatively slow night but as nursing students, we know that this can change in the blink of an eye. As I was sitting at the nurses' station filling out clinical paperwork, I suddenly saw nurses from every direction running into one patient's room. I stood up, ready to help, and as I did this, one of the nurses ran out of the room. She came up to me and said, "I need you to find the ultrasound machine, it's urgent!" I asked her where it was, being new to this floor, and she said she wasn't sure, but it was probably in a closet somewhere.

I began running down the hallway asking every nurse I saw if they knew where the ultrasound machine was. I asked four nurses in total, and we were all running around frantically trying to find this piece of equipment, looking in every closet on the unit. Finally, a nurse was able to find it hidden away in a closet and as soon as we were able to get it out, I ran down to the critical patient's room, pulling the machine behind me. When I entered the room, there were seven nurses in there providing care and trying to get this patient's vital signs to stabilize. They thanked me for the ultrasound machine, and I left the room.

I found out later that this patient ended up being okay, but at the time he was coding. This situation is a perfect example of why RFID technology is so incredibly vital to the healthcare world. If the nurses had been able to track the precise location of the ultrasound machine, then we could have gone straight to the closet it was located in. Having to search everywhere with multiple nurses caused us to lose valuable seconds in trying to save this patient, and it also took many nurses away from their other patients so they could help me search. We were very lucky that this patient was okay and that the extended amount of time it took to find this machine didn't seem to cause any additional issues for the patient.

Sample written by Alex – Zebra CNIO intern, 2020