



Medical Center Plano Installs FreshLoc to Track Temperature, Humidity in Critical Storage

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Medical Center Plano Takes Chance Out of Compliance

Plano, TX - December 2006 - The Medical Center of Plano is putting compliance on a fast track by installing FreshLoc automatic monitoring throughout its facility. The FreshLoc system tracks and records temperature and humidity, creating the records required for JCAHO, CAP, AABB, etc. Logs previously recorded manually are stored online, and reports are sent directly as required. The system also tips off hospital staff to potential problems; emailing, calling or paging alerts when temperatures go outside a safe range.

Automating recordkeeping is an important part of the hospital's comprehensive compliance program; FreshLoc records are ready-made for a JCAHO performance improvement process. Gary Malaer, Facility Director at Medical Center Plano, comments, "Being able to track and trend equipment and processes is the key to proving performance improvement. Temperature and humidity records are part of Utility Management, Patient Safety, Equipment Testing, Maintenance...we are able to use them daily, and pull historic records for training."

The wireless FreshLoc system installs easily-small sensors are placed inside refrigerators, on dishwashers, and in the PYXIS pharmacy storage units. "We started with foodservice-they were spending four FTE hours per day collecting records from food alone," continues Malaer. "Today, FreshLoc monitors our OR, our lab...even our blanket warmers."

Medical Center Plano has 427 beds, and a staff of 1,500. FreshLoc provides records for food handling, drug and tissue storage, as well as Operating Room temperature and humidity. JCAHO, CAP, AABB and the FDA require continuous temperature records for storage and handling of vaccines, blood, and a number of other perishable healthcare items.

As standards stiffen, institutions increasingly are turning to automated solutions to provide the end-to-end compliance documentation regulators require. A wireless network, running in the background, yet readily accessible online, is just what the doctors ordered.

About Medical Center of Plano

Since 1975, Medical Center of Plano has maintained a reputation for superior health care as the largest and most sophisticated medical facility in Collin County. We are a 427-bed, JCAHO-accredited, medical/surgical hospital offering a broad base of quality patient services. In October 2004, Medical Center of Plano became the first hospital in Collin County to have a nationally accredited Chest Pain Center.