

Hospital medication supply concept

Realising significant savings potentials and improving the quality of medication supplies using intelligent supply chain concepts



Medication is a substantial element of hospital treatment costs. Not only is it costly, but it also requires specialist handling. By reorganising its medication supply system, the CHUV has gained transparency in the sectors of prescriptions, invoicing and traceability.

The Client

- Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois (CHUV), CH-Lausanne
- Second-largest university hospital in Western Switzerland
- Annual cost budget of over CHF 1.2 billion per year
- Over 8'000 employees, in excess of 40'000 patient treatments per year

The Objective

- Qualitative improvement of medication, data and value streams
- Enhancing safety and traceability of medications
- Improved cost allocation to appropriate cost centres

The Solution

- Introduction of the «Pharma Assistant» system
- Rigorously orient medication management to the kanban system
- Develop measures to secure medication flows en route from the central pharmacy to the ward-level dispensaries
- Develop specific measures to improve medication flows of extremely expensive medicines

The Client Benefit

- Flows of materials and data, including value streams, are under control and retraceable
- Medication inventories are reduced
- Wastage and returns are significantly lowered
- Quality of medication supplies is substantially enhanced
- Nursing staff are relieved of logistics tasks
- Annual cost reductions are valued at over CHF 0.5 million