Revitalizing an RTLS Initiative

According to our estimates nearly 100% of hospitals in the U.S., with over 400 licensed beds, have implemented some type of Real-Time Location Solution (RTLS). Beyond the obvious enterprise-wide deployments where organizations are using RTLS technologies to monitor the movement of equipment, patients and staff, many hospitals have more limited deployments. Those deployments might only be used as part of their nurse call system or be limited in scope to a single department or area.

Further many hospitals are leveraging the capabilities of an RTLS infrastructure for environmental management purposes, monitoring temperatures in refrigerators, blanket warmers, and even for ambient temperature in sensitive locations.

Unfortunately, regardless of the scope, many healthcare organizations consider their RTLS deployments as less than successful, and often times blame the technology as being "too early" or "problematic." The fact is however, that in most situations the technology is not the sole factor in either the success or the failure of a project.

Infinite Leap focuses on helping hospitals achieve as much value from the systems that they have already invested in as possible, even if they have been idle, or long forgotten.

Regardless of the size of your implementation, the initial goals, the type of technology, or the vendor you once selected, it is worth the relatively small

investment of time and resources to get a third-party expert opinion on what you can gain from what you already have in place.

When Infinite Leap becomes involved in these types of situations, we look at the following areas to determine what it would take to revitalize an RTLS initiative:

RTLS Infrastructure

What shape is the locating infrastructure in? Is everything working as designed? Does the existing infrastructure need enhancement in certain areas to ensure accuracy? Are there new technological advancements that could make it work better?

At a strategic level, virtually any healthcare organization that uses a RTLS solution should be compelled to reevaluate their current RTLS infrastructure, as more accurate, less expensive, and easier to deploy and maintain options are becoming available. The same goes for software applications, which continuously evolve. Our clients rely on our expertise in this matter by utilizing our Technology Evaluation services.

For example, after the evaluation of the current RTLS infrastructure at one of our client's facilities, a children's hospital in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, we recommended staying with their current RTLS hardware vendor, CenTrak, and adding additional RTLS hardware components to allow them for a room-level accuracy and enhanced reliability. This decision enabled them to start using their existing RTLS infrastructure for patient flow, without the need to replace any of their current RTLS hardware.

System Configuration and Process Redesign

Can changes to system configuration and rules make the system more reliable and useful? Are there processes, leveraging the RTLS system, that can be redesigned that will help staff be more efficient?

It is important to recognize that creating value from Real-Time Technologies requires aligning the system with the organization objectives, procedures and processes, and that this alignment should be continually reviewed and assessed. By doing this, the technical infrastructure may be able to be easily used to address new or emerging needs that may not have even been thought of at the time of initial installation. Our Optimization services are designed to evaluate how your RTLS system and processes are functioning today and what should be done to optimize them. Your team will receive methodical support from our healthcare operations experts, who will be sharing with you best practices gained by implementing and managing over 300 real-time technology projects.

Example: One of our clients, a 1,541-bed hospital in Connecticut, leveraged our expertise to revitalize their Temperature Monitoring program. Our consultants assisted in improving the overall configuration and operational processes around the temperature management initiative. This included such tasks as auditing and refining temperature sensor naming conventions, validation temperature ranges, and verification of existing alert process and escalations. Additionally, we helped with compiling all temperature information into a single database for regulatory compliance. This ensured that people, processes and technologies were all well-orchestrated and delivering value.

In*f*initeLeap
RESULTS IN REAL-TIME

Integrations

Are there ways that the data can be integrated into existing systems that can be useful in removing the need for the manual entry of data, saving time, and/or improving patient experience?

Integrating your RTLS solution with your other healthcare information and operational systems, such as the EHR, CMMS, and nurse call systems, provides additional leverage to your current RTLS investment. If you haven't already done these types of integrations, then you are likely missing out on much of the "easy" value. With the assistance of System Integration services, we can help you reduce data entry and enrich your system with location-based intelligence.

Example: A large health care system in North Carolina wanted to eliminate the manual entry of milestone data into their Epic OPTIME system. As such, we were able to integrate real-time location data into Epic, which saved time for care providers and increased the accuracy and timeliness of the data. This ensured accuracy of the data within Epic and freed up clinicians' time so that they could stay focused on their patients. As an added bonus, the data allowed for real-time updating of the family waiting room view board, which certainly helped provide a much more accurate understanding of the patient's status for family members.

Business Intelligence

How can the data that has been collected, or that could be collected, be mined for value that wasn't maybe considered at the time of implementation? What Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) can be measured that couldn't be before?

Healthcare executives require measurable return on investment (ROI) for any type of investments that have been made in technology. In the past, most projects failed to provide anything demonstrable. That sealed the fate of many projects as very few people knew how to get at the data that could provide the justification to move forward. We help our clients obtain pre- and post-implementation benchmarks and help them design reports and dashboards to support process improvement changes impacting patient safety, staff efficiency, and resource optimization. With our RTLS Reporting and Analytics, we can help you find precise and timely answers to support your operational decisions. Our Data Scientists work hard to use the real-time data to provide the measurements that your leadership team is looking for.

Example: At a large teaching hospital in North Carolina, we were able to attain over $10 million in quantifiable ROI by providing staff with real-time dashboards supporting in-the-moment decisions, and executive reports guiding strategic, long-term organizational decisions. Generated savings allowed our client to expand an RTLS initiative to more advanced use cases, with now over 50 live RTLS-based projects positively impacting operational efficiencies, patient and staff safety, as well clinical outcomes.

Infinite Leap
RESULTS IN REAL-TIME

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Email: info@infiniteleap.net
Phone: 1-866-235-3940
Website: www.InfiniteLeap.net