

# Integration Efficiencies Achieved with PAR Excellence



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### Steve Roland

Corporate Director of Materials Distribution The Health Alliance of Greater Cincinnati The Health Alliance of Greater Cincinnati chose the patient charge system, PAR Excellence, to reduce the amount of time technical workers spend traveling from floor to floor updating a handheld device which then feeds into a legacy system storing comprehensive information about inventory. The worker can then spend more time ordering the needed materials to update inventory.

After implementation, the PAR Excellence system was integrated with Lawson® to deliver a complete patient charge and distribution inventory control system. The Health Alliance achieved many time efficiencies with the new centralized and integrated systems.

Today, a caregiver goes to the PAR Excellence system and initiates a supply requisition via a touch probe on the unit by using the patient's last name on the keypad and touching the corresponding supply selection button next to the patient's name. "It's very simple, easy and efficient — the caregiver just drops the probe in the cradle and it sends the information down to the main inventory management system without any manual intervention," according to Steve Roland, Corporate Director of Materials Distribution, for The Health Alliance of Greater Cincinnati.

The main inventory management system is centralized in the materials office. Orders are processed from PAR Excellence and are loaded into the Lawson system for manipulation. The orders are sent from Lawson to The Health Alliance's distributor, Owens and Minor, and are then picked, packed and shipped the same day or the next day to meet The Health Alliance's just-in-time inventory requirements.

"The integration between Lawson and PAR Excellence provides our hospital system with simplicity," according to Roland. "Certainly for the nurses, who are the end users of the system, we needed a system that provided ease-of-use, and would also convert to the warehouse end of the system, where the operational users also enjoy the benefit of the ease-of-use experience."

The Lawson and PAR Excellence system is also being used between the various hospital locations and one central warehouse. "Another example of using the combined systems occurs between one of our remote operating room systems and our central warehouse," said Roland. "We are able to control 4,000 items with 240 different sources without any paper involved. The user can order stock and non-stock items, the Lawson system records the transaction, which is then received at the corporate business center where a PO is created."

The caregiver at the OR touches the keypad on the PAR Excellence system and it reduces inventory within the central service that supports the OR. The PAR Excellence system then releases the information into Lawson, which transfers the data to the Purchasing Office and the suppliers place orders for restock.

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PAR Excellence

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The Health Alliance of Greater
Cincinnati is an integrated health
care delivery system with more than
2,000 licensed beds, which includes
The Christ Hospital, The University
Hospital, The St. Luke Hospitals, The
Jewish Hospital, The Fort Hamilton
Hospital and the physicians of
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## www.lawson.com

#### **Corporate Headquarters**

Lawson Software 380 St. Peter Street St. Paul, MN 55102 United States Phone: +1-651-767-7000 Product Literature: 1-800-477-1357 Fax: +1-651-767-7141

## **International Operations**

Lawson Software 1000 Great West Road Brentford Middlesex TW8 9HR United Kingdom Phone: +44 (0) 208-560-0825 Fax: +44 (0) 208-847-2447

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