

To ensure its decontamination and sterilization facilities comply with best practice guidelines, The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust has recently made a significant investment into the two MDD registered facilities at its Oldham and North Manchester sites.

Sterile services manager, Philip Harding, took Inside Hospitals on a tour of the impressive facility at North Manchester Hospital that is now capable of processing up to 120,000 instrument trays per year.

But it's not just the trust's investment in state-of-the-art equipment and facilities that bring compliance - on-going staff training and regular audits ensure the 'gold standard' benchmark that Phil and his team have achieved.

Established in April 2002, The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust manages hospitals in Bury, North Manchester, Oldham and Rochdale. Serving a population of approximately 800,000, the trust is one of the largest non-teaching hospitals in the country.

Following a decision to stay independent of external service providers, and driven by the facilities directorate at board level, the trust now boasts two MDD registered facilities.

While the trust has upgraded the sister-HSDU facility at Oldham Hospital to

cater for Rochdale Infirmary's throughput too, the North Manchester Hospital facility, that was previously processing 60,000 instrument trays a year, has been expanded enabling it to also handle the output of nearby Fairfield Hospital, in Bury.

Indeed the North Manchester HSDU is currently going through its programmed transition phase as it gears up to full capacity. Phasing-in of Bury Hospital's specialities will see obs and gynae, followed by general surgery, and finally ENT and orthopaedic surgery, as all the clinical decontamination services move to the new-look facility.

The North Manchester Hospital unit was one of the first in the country to be registered to BS EN ISO 13485:2003, an achievement reached under the



Upgraded HSDU will process up to 120,000 trays a year

guidance of Applied Management Systems, who's principal consultant Fiona Kennedy has worked closely with Phil Harding and his team to ensure that the upgraded HSDU has the necessary quality management systems, and written policies and procedures, all driven by process mapping systems.

Impressively, the HSDU is now in its third year of registration with the Medical Device Directive (93/42 EE), ISO 9001:2000, EN 46002 1996 and ISO 13485:2003. An annual assessment, undertaken by Intertec (Amtac Certification Services), follows a three year plan of compulsory elements examined at each audit - including management (commitment, quality policy, planning and objectives, review, and provision of resources), aspects of the MDD and a whole series of variable elements (infrastructure, monitoring,

documentation, human resources, etc).

Yet this recognition has not been won by investment alone. Any visitor to North Manchester Hospitals could not fail to be struck by the readily apparent friendliness and team spirit within the HSDU, which speaks volumes for Phil Harding's management style and the enthusiasm that he engenders.

undertake maintenance or handle breakdowns. It's all done in-house due to the excellent service provided by the facilities department."

Indeed, test person Paul Nicholson and maintenance person Geoff Brandreth, relocated the original washer-disinfectors while all remedial work was undertaken and the new units installed. Paul also

met Phil Harding's aesthetic vision for the unit when he conceived the idea of adapting a washer-disinfecter into a pass through hatch - an idea embraced by the manufacture adding this option to its product range.

All HTM 2030's requirements are also undertaken in the department, and later in the tour Phil proudly displayed the meticulously maintained archive room of monitoring and record



Like any successful manager, Phil is quick to praise his team, and with particular reference to the MDD recognition and recent upgrade he mentions the quality management team, in-house engineers and IT.

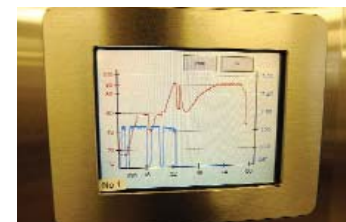
Quality manager Steve Platt and quality administrator Julie Kane developed the unit's quality management system with AMS's Fiona Kennedy.

Many sterile service managers will no doubt envy Phil his prized asset, an in-house duo of maintenance person Geoff Brandreth and trust test person Paul Nicholson.

"It's a fantastic asset," enthuses Phil. "In the four years I've been here we've never had to call in companies to

data. Training is largely undertaken in-house too. Staff have full access to the National Decontamination Training e-learning programme in the department's resource centre.

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Philip Harding, sterile services manager, North Manchester and Bury Hospitals

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Operating seven days per week, the unit has 26 members of staff who are whole time equivalents with a further ten whole time equivalents being added to facilitate the additional throughput from Fairfield Hospital, Bury. Three drivers operate on a rota system handling the to-and-fro shipment to Bury.

Instrument trays from Fairfield Hospital are transported in 12, UN-approved trolleys specially adapted by manufacturer Caddie to suit the HSDU's requirements. Trolleys are decontaminated with a bacterial spray after each use.

A Trisoft computerised tracking system enables each instrument tray set to be checked-off and scanned into the department's log - the recently increased capacity



necessitating additional data input points and the installation of Imax thermal printers by IT systems manager Darren Dorrn.

Instrument repairs are undertaken by Bolton Surgical on a seven-day turnaround.

The recent refurbishment has produced a striking washroom reception, well lit with high quality inspection lighting and with walls clad in stainless steel, ensuring every surface is touch-clean.

Serchem's manual cleaning agent Antibac is applied in the manual cleaning area where the sink has a pure water spray connected to the reverse osmosis unit.

Conveniently, there was sufficient space for Environmental Water Systems (EWS) to install its compact HTM 2030-compliant hot loop reverse osmosis unit in the rooftop plant room - directly above the HSDU. The

installation comprises raw water break tank and pump set, duplex raw water feed pumps, activated carbon filter and duplex water softeners. At the heart of the



system are two Labpure RO1B reverse osmosis units, one as duty, one as standby. Control is by a central PLC fitted with an RS232 port. A remote panel allows staff in the HSDU to monitor performance.

Back in the HSDU, instrument trays are fed into the

impressive new array of seven, prEN 15583-1-2 compliant DEKO D32 washer-disinfectors and the matching D32 pass through hatch. (Three DEKO D32s were also supplied for the trust's upgrade to Royal Oldham Hospital.)

DeKOMed's managing director, Ken Bowden said: "In my 40-years experience of SSDs in the UK and Scandinavia, I would classify this department as 5 star. It truly is a credit to all concerned and I'd recommend a viewing to any reader involved in the design of new or refurbished facilities."

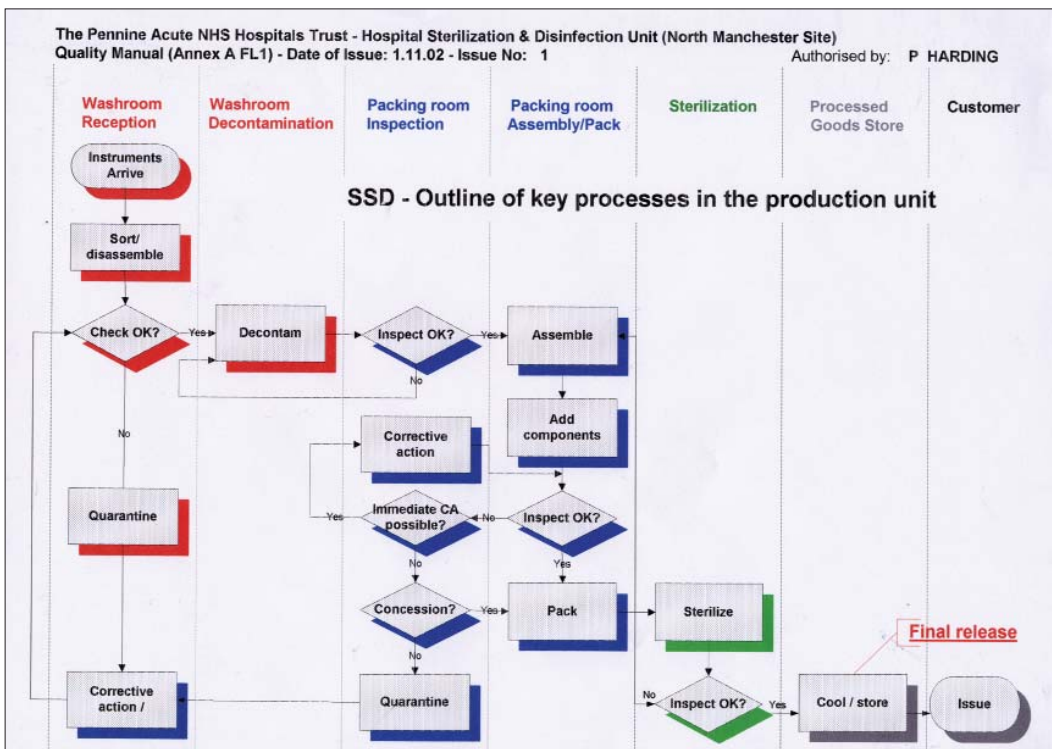
Following the 80-minute cycle, trays are decanted in the equally impressive 22-workstation, inspection

assembly and packing room. Wrapped in Kimberly-Clark's SMS, trays are loaded onto carriages and sterilized in accordance with HTM 2010 in four, 28 cu ft Getinge SEC autoclaves for their 35-minute cycle.

Equipment is then decanted into the sterile store and loaded onto dedicated cooling racks awaiting return to theatre.

30 years in sterile services, initially with Coventry and Warwick, and subsequently at Liverpool's cardio thoracic, Phil Harding is a member of the sterile services national audit team for NHS Estates and a consultant for Inventures, through which he is involved in the writing of tracking and traceability documents

Having designed the new, refurbished HSDU on his arrival at North Manchester four years ago, Phil and his team, with the support of the facilities directorate, contractors and manufacturers, have realised a vision and achieved a truly impressive, state-of-the-art facility to be proud of.



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