

Patient Monitoring Units

An important part of NUS activities



Annica Vermelin
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“Different wards have different needs,” as Annica Vermelin, medical technology engineer at Norrland University Hospital (NUS) in Sweden, explains. Annica manages the patient monitoring solution at NUS and looks after each hospital ward’s unique communication needs. “The patients in the Intensive Care Unit need a nurse by their side, so in this case the central patient monitoring system fulfills the need for alarm purposes,” she says. “However, there are also wards where nurses are more mobile and where their work could be improved and more efficient if they didn’t have to be confined to the central monitoring station.” With this in mind, NUS acquired their first Versity smartphones from Spectralink back in 2018 and they haven’t regretted it.



“We knew we wanted to access the CareEvent feature that Versity supports through Philips. Then we needed durable handsets that could withstand harsh environments. Sure, they’re more expensive than a regular phone, but they don’t break. We haven’t had any problems with our handsets since we first started using them four years ago. However, one handset has disappeared without a trace. Maybe it went in the laundry!”

A handset that stands up to harsh environments

The first ward to receive the Versity handsets was Neonatal. The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit had been very strict about cleaning all equipment long before COVID-19, so it was important to them that the phones could withstand being cleaned several times a day, which has proven to be the case.

“I think it’s also an advantage that the Versity phones are slightly more rugged than a regular smartphone. I feel that the staff, in general, handles regular cordless phones that are not their personal phones, in a rather careless way. Since the Versity handsets look and feel like a modern, high-end smartphone, the staff tends to treat them with greater care.”

The stroke unit was next in line to get monitoring directly in the handset

The Stroke Unit at the NUS also wants to move away from only relying on the central monitoring. Since nurses are mobile, it’s more efficient to have the alarms directly in the handset so they can better prioritize their work. During Easter this year, the Stroke Unit received its first handsets. Annica is looking forward to happy users and the full roll out within the stroke unit in the coming weeks.

“So far it’s going well and all users who have had Versity before are very happy.”

Annica says they have future-proofed the communication solution in the Neonatal Care and Stroke departments through Versity and the Philips application integration. The CareEvent feature is relatively new and it’s way ahead of what the nurses have been used to until now. But of course, there are always things they want to improve and here we have a great platform.

“We are looking forward to further app improvements, for example, to be able to acknowledge monitoring alarms in the handset, then the solution with these Versity smartphones would be even more valuable in the work here at the hospital!”