

## ADT System vs. BedTracking®: A One-Day Comparison

INTRODUCTION: Admit-Discharge-Transfer (ADT) systems on the market today can not automatically page Environmental Services (EVS) personnel to clean a bed or page a Supervisor if EVS personnel fail to start the cleaning process within a predetermined timeframe. Additionally, ADT systems can not provide real-time updates of when bed cleaning begins, real-time updates of when bed cleaning is finished or the real-time status updates from any telephone.

Environmental Services and Admitting are ultimately concerned with such features, as they have enormous impact on departmental operations.

After one month of using **BedTracking**® in parallel with a hospital's ADT system, the following results -- representing one day of activity -- were compiled.

### PROCEDURE:

- Nurses indicated "dirty" beds by entering them into the computer at the Nurse's station.
- EVS personnel or Patient Service Associates (PSAs) then called the EVS office when they finished cleaning.
- A staff member then keyed the clean beds into an ADT terminal in the EVS office.

### RESULTS:

1. The ADT system generated 332 pages of information. **BedTracking**® generated 5 pages. This is very important to staff members in the trenches who need to find information about a particular bed, in a timely fashion.
2. The ADT system still relied on Nursing to indicate that a bed is dirty. Therefore, bed batching can and did still occur.
3. The ADT system relied on EVS personnel or PSAs to call the office, which also resulted in bed batching. Out of all clean beds, 23% were batched by the EVS/PSAs. Additionally, the staff member in the office could only handle a specific number of calls at any given time. Busy signals and being placed on hold wasted EVS/PSA time.
4. The average time between DIRTY to IN PROGRESS notification with **BedTracking**® was 2 hours, 42 minutes because auto paging was not yet implemented. This is to say nothing of how long it took to indicate that the

bed was DIRTY. By implementing **BedTracking**®'s auto paging, wait time is reduced by 75%.

5. **BedTracking**® indicated a CLEAN bed on average of 55.9 minutes before the ADT. Bear in mind, those in the EVS department feel they are using the system at the best level ever.
6. An astounding 30% of the **BedTracking**® beds never hit the ADT system as DIRTY.
7. Six beds never hit the ADT system at all - DIRTY, CLEAN, etc. At 40% utilization of **BedTracking**®, this equates to 18 to 20 beds per day for which would be unaccounted. Therefore, only telephone calls and real investigation could assist in accounting for these beds (nurses or supervisors "walking the floors").
8. This impacted the Dietary/Food & Nutritional Services department. If the patients in these beds typically received 2 meals per day and the patients were discharged with no notification to Dietary/Food & Nutritional Services (i.e., without **BedTracking**®), the meals would still be sent to the discharged beds...translating as follows:  
$$18 \times 2 \text{ Meals} = 36 \text{ Meals}$$
$$36 \text{ Meals} \times \$2 \text{ per Meal} = \$72$$
$$\$72 \times 30 \text{ days/month} = \$2,160/\text{month}$$
9. Human error accounted for five beds called in, but not entered into the ADT system. This would equate to 15 beds per day if at 100% utilization.

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