

Aesculap Service Systems

Instrument Management Kantonsspital Aarau AG



Customer report

Instrument Management



Starting point

Previously, sterile good processing used to be distributed in more than 30 treatment centers and diagnostics institutes of the Kantonsspital Aarau (KSA) in Aarau (Switzerland). This outdated setup forced reinvestments by the Zentrumsspital, which, in turn, were taken as an opportunity to centralize sterile services. Investments were to be targeted at the latest technologies to ensure the flawless supply of sterile goods, with optimized processes in an agreeable working environment. Finally, in April 2009, the 1,000 sq ft rebuild with 21 full-time staff commenced production as one of the most advanced central sterilization facilities worldwide.

From inventory audit to establishing standards

"Thanks to the integration at one site, we are able to provide maximum quality and safety", Jörg Helminski, Head of CSSD, summarizes the large-scale project, which had started many years before its actual inauguration. The first step was to take stock of the entire inventory of sterile goods. *"To begin with, we needed to gain an overview of our sterile assets, so that we could be in a position to plan capacities and investment volumes",* Helminski remembers.

This groundwork resulted in a 9.5 mil SFr rebuilding project, with Belimed, as one of the

leading manufacturers of automatic washers and sterilizers, among the contractors. As the same company was also responsible for the instrument management system, Belimed cooperated with B. Braun Switzerland and entrusted the experienced manufacturer of surgical instruments and allround solution provider for instrument management with its implementation.

Traceability and certification

"For us, the traceability of the process steps in sterile equipment processing is a very important aspect", says the Deputy Head of CSSD in Aarau, Bert van Genechten. Since the KSA aims to become certified according to Swiss Medic standards in the near future, it was essential to find user-friendly and intuitive software, which would assist the

CSSD workers with still images, videos and directions for the correct workflow in everyday operation, and provide the appropriate documentation. The aim was to define standards and guarantee the sustained safety and security of the database. Eventually, the KSA decided for instacount® PLUS, with the result that B. Braun Switzerland involved Invitec, the developer of this world-leading instrument management software, in the project implementation at an early stage.

In the end, instacount® PLUS was installed at 18 workstations, which document, control and analyze the processing procedures for about 85,000 sterile units per year. 16 operating rooms are now accessing instacount® PLUS for the release and commis-

sioning of sterile goods for safe, sterile surgical application.

Operational database and repair management

"For the generation of the article database, in particular, we benefited greatly from the easy import and export of Excel lists, so that we soon had an operational article database, with which we could work", comments Bert van Genechten, who started with the repair management functions in instacount® PLUS after only four months of operational work with the management system. Once the responsibility for repair management was removed from procurement and transferred to the CSSD, a dedicated workstation was installed at the repairs store. The immediate registration of repairs, the complete generation of repair orders and the proper booking of repairs received back into the respective set or into stores is handled directly where it happens – and controlled by the people who are in the best position to judge any repair needs. All this made the repair process much more efficient.

Interfaces ensuring success

The smooth cooperation between Belimed and Invitec in the area of interfacing between the seven WD290 single-chamber washers/disinfectors and the four MST-H sterilizers shows that the integration of was-

Advantages for Kantonsspital Aarau AG:

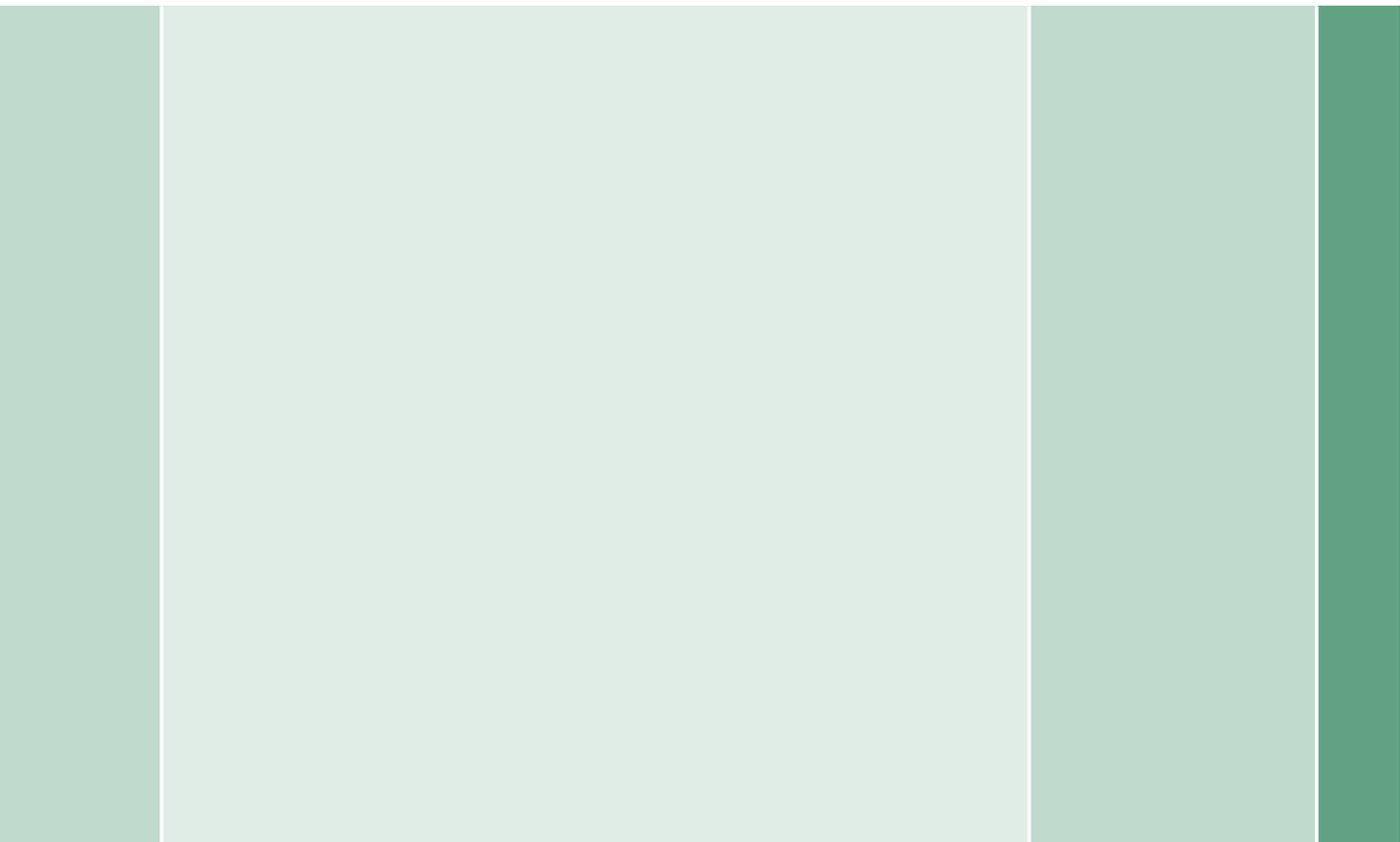
- Paper administration made obsolete by integrated instacount® database
- Sustainable and secure database ensured by privilege structure for data generation and editing
- Quick and easy article number search in trays throughout the sterile processing cycle
- Efficient familiarization of new staff, thanks to self-explanatory tray list including illustrations
- Intuitive, easy-to-grasp software tool to master the complexities of sterile supply management
- Comprehensive documentation of processes and instances within the sterile processing cycle
- Option of commissioning with exact cost allocation to cost centers
- Clear personnel input calculation
- Trouble-free integration of washers/disinfectors and sterilizers, and of the innovative Rotary System for process documentation in instacount® PLUS
- Professional documentation of sterile processing as basis for certification

hing machines and sterilizers with an instrument management system does not have to be a thorny issue. At Aarau, the novel, intelligent "Rotary System" by Belimed, for the fully automatic loading and unloading of the single-chamber washers/disinfectors were integrated in instacount® PLUS, as well. The Rotary System uses RFID technology to detect and recognize the loading racks, which are transported to the next available washing machine via a modular conveyor line. The correct assignment of the loading racks to the appropriate washing machines and cycles is handled within instacount® PLUS, which also documents

this assignment and the respective process data through the interface installed.

In this way, all the conditions are in place at the Kantonsspital Aarau, so that Jörg Helminski can state with confidence: "The new CSSD, with its approach of comprehensive automation, ensures highest standards of patient safety."





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