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The next step in a digital hospital

Royal Prince Alfred Hospital's emergency department is the first in NSW to introduce a system where a patient's vital signs are automatically recorded at the bedside and downloaded to their electronic medical records.

The new system allows all clinicians treating the patient to have real time access to the patient's blood pressure, temperature and heart rate.

"It is a big change in work practice, but will improve efficiency and safety for our patients," said RPA emergency department nurse unit manager Terence Johnson.

"It makes sense to have everything recorded electronically and available from everywhere. No longer will we need to track down the patient's paper records."

We've also introduced specially barcoded patient identification wristbands which will allow operating theatre staff to electronically record every item used during surgery, improving patient safety and inventory management.

"From a patient safety perspective, it is paramount we have the ability to track what was used in a surgery and from a supply chain management perspective, it will make reordering more efficient," said Stella Pillai, RPA's operating theatres nurse unit manager.

These updates are the next steps in reducing paper records and continuing to improve accuracy, legibility and consistency of clinical documentation.

RPA acting general manager, Nobby Alcala said this is a significant achievement in clinical excellence and innovation at RPA.

"The electronic clinical documentation transforms the nature of care we deliver and gives access to up-to-date, legible and consistent patient information at any time, from any location within the hospital."



Emergency department nurses taking a patient's vital observations.