



Case Study

UK hospital emergency department revitalizes its records process

A **Kodak** i1320 Scanner plays a key role in the digital workflow

Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust's Emergency Department has a clinical staff of seven consultants, 18 doctors and around 50 nurses who provide emergency medical care 24/7, seeing on average 200 people per day. The hospital has made the transition to a digital workflow to streamline the records management process and help the staff maintain a high level of care in a demanding healthcare environment.

Situation

The hospital generated a huge volume of paperwork and the process of storing, managing and accessing patient records was unacceptably slow and labor-intensive.

Objective

The goal was to replace the manual filing system with a digital workflow that would give doctors a faster and more accurate way to locate and review patient records.

Solution

The hospital has installed a **Kodak** i1320 Scanner* with a tethered A3 flatbed accessory, which feeds a **File Stream** electronic document management solution (EDMS).

Results

The new process has significantly improved the integrity, security and accessibility of the hospital's emergency records.

Managing the emergency records of the 70,000 patients it serves each year had become overwhelming for the Barnsley Hospital Emergency Department. The huge volume of paper was causing issues in terms of storing, managing, and accessing patient information. Records were kept in the department for 6 months, then moved to a basement area for a year and ultimately transferred to a remote and inaccessible area of the hospital - nicknamed 'The Bunker' - for long-term 5-year storage.

Dr. Dyfrig Hughes, project leader, explains, "The longer records were in storage, the harder they were to find. Each move increased the chances of files getting lost. As a result, staff members would spend too much time looking for records that were perhaps only slightly misfiled."

"Accessing records is important especially when treating children's illness," Dr. Hughes adds. "With the old paper-based system, we just weren't able to access information quickly or easily."

The Emergency Department considered scanning emergency records for a few years until a small flood in the storage area finally gave the Trust the motivation to find a better solution.

“A **Kodak** Scanner solution was recommended because of the reputation for reliability, and ability to integrate and work faultlessly with **File Stream**.”

Mark Ingram, Managing Director, Ascot Business Solutions Limited

A system built to power through paperwork

The system the hospital chose was recommended by Kodak Alaris' reseller Ascot Business Solutions. The system includes **File Stream's** EDMS solution and a **Kodak i1320** departmental scanner, with a tethered A3 flatbed accessory.

The **Kodak i1320** Scanner offers high performance duplex scanning in a compact desktop design. It can process 40 pages per minute in color (60 pages per minute in black and white or grayscale) both sides - and handle documents up to 34 inches long, making it a very productive front end for the process. Featuring 600 dpi optical resolution, the **Kodak i1320** Scanner comes with **Kodak Perfect Page** imaging technology which ensures that the best possible scanned images are produced the first time, every time.

Gary Jones, File Stream's UK marketing manager, said, "It's a busy little scanner. When you arrive in the Emergency Department, the receptionist retrieves information from the Patient Administration System (PAS) and prints a top sheet, adds blank pages for medical staff to then fill in and puts all the documents into a folder. Once the pages



are completed, the whole file is scanned and the paperwork is destroyed." Urine tests, blood results and heart tracings are all produced using sheets of paper of different colors, which the **Kodak** Scanner handles with ease, further improving the integrity and security of the records.

Simplifying access and collaboration

Authorized medical staff can now search for records by date of birth, date of attendance, general practitioner, gender, and Emergency Department number.

In addition to offering instant access to patient records, the new system allows doctors to collaborate more easily by e-mailing documents to each other. Dr. Hughes explains, "If I am on a ward, I can call up the notes on a patient who came in the previous day without the need to find the physical records or ask someone to find or copy them."

What's more, storage space once occupied by paper records has now been freed up to make room for an expanded children's area.

Want to learn more?

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* The **Kodak i1320** Scanner has been replaced by the **Kodak i2000** Series Scanners.

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