

For Immediate Release

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HALTON HEALTHCARE SERVICES TO IMPLEMENT NEW MEDICATION SYSTEM

Contracts Awarded to Omnicell Inc. and Swisslog

Oakville, ON – Halton Healthcare Services (HHS) has awarded contracts to both *Omnicell Inc.* and *Swisslog* as part of its plan to update the medication system at all three HHS hospitals: Georgetown Hospital (GH), Milton District Hospital (MDH) and Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital (OTMH).

“The new Automated Dispensing Units (ADUs) from *Omnicell Inc.* will modernize our entire drug distribution system, improving the efficiency, accuracy and timeliness of providing medication to our patients,” explained Helena Trabulsi, HHS Director of Pharmacy.

The new ADUs will be placed in 55 locations throughout all three hospitals. All medications inside the ADUs will be individually packaged and include a barcode on the label. Most of the commonly used tablets and capsules will be packaged automatically by a new high speed packager that was recently installed in Pharmacy at OTMH. The ATP-320 machine manufactured by *TCGRx*, and acquired by HHS from *Swisslog*, will be linked to the ADUs. It will package up to 320 different medications as they are needed and do so at a rapid rate, while taking up minimum space in the department.

The ADUs will also be linked to the *Meditech* patient drug information system already in place at HHS. This ensures healthcare providers will only remove from the ADUs those medications that have been ordered for that specific patient, reducing potential medication errors. In a later phase, prior to administering medication to a patient, nurses will scan the barcode on the medication package and the patient’s wristband. The system will then check that the medication is the correct one for the patient.

“The ADUs will provide our healthcare providers and patients with a more accurate and safer drug distribution system, with barcode bedside verification ensuring that patients get their intended dose and type of medications at the right time,” said Sylvia Rodgers, HHS Chief Nursing Officer and Professional Practice Leader. “Currently, most medications are ordered in the patient care area. These orders are processed and filled in the pharmacy and delivered to the unit. Having medications readily available in fully stocked ADUs in all patient care areas will reduce the time spent waiting for medications to be delivered from Pharmacy.”

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The storage and retrieval carousel known as the *BoxPicker* - is another piece of equipment HHS Pharmacy will be acquiring. The contract has been awarded to *Swisslog*. This high speed unit dose picker, along with the ATP-320 packager, is interfaced to the ADUs and works with them to keep a current log of medication inventory, thereby automating the processes for restocking the drugs stored in the ADUs as well as in the pharmacy.

“Due to space limitations within the current department, the *Swisslog BoxPicker* is the most efficient piece of equipment for our purposes. The installation at OTMH will be the first use of this modern technology in Canada,” noted Mrs. Trabulsi. “The *BoxPicker* will improve the management of our drug inventory of over 2,500 products, while freeing up clinical staff to support patient care.”

Construction required to house the *Swisslog BoxPicker* will begin in early January, concluding in early spring 2012. The *Omincell* ADUs will be installed this December, beginning at Georgetown Hospital. Installation at OTMH and Milton District Hospital will follow with a completion date of early 2013. The ADUs, *BoxPicker*, and ATP-320 packager will be moved and continue to be used in the New Oakville Hospital. The new 1.5 million square foot facility will allow for the installation of a new pharmacy robot, also from *Swisslog*, which will be the future of pharmacy dispensing at HHS.

Founded in 1992, *Omincell Inc.* is a leading provider of medication and supply management solutions and analytics software for healthcare facilities.

Swisslog is a global supplier of integrated logistics solutions with a comprehensive portfolio of services ranging from building complex warehouses and distribution centres to in-house logistics solutions for hospitals for customers in more than 50 countries around the world.

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News Release



(l-r) Halton Healthcare Services registered nurse, Tanja Bos receives training from Nurse Analyst, Veronica Breadner as Georgetown Hospital begins training on their new medication equipment.

Helena Trabulsi, HHS Director of Pharmacy **(second in from the right)** with some members of the Medication Management Project Team **(l-r)** Angela Roode, Veroncia Breadner, Kathy Douglas and Diane Olmstead begin training on the ADUs in preparation for their new medication system rollout across the organization.



Omniceil Inc. ADUs that are currently installed in Georgetown Hospital and will be rolled out throughout HHS.

