

# Patient care suffers as nurses struggle to find medical equipment

More than one-third of nurses spend at least an hour finding items of equipment during an average hospital shift, according to a survey by Nursing Times. In 16% of cases, respondents said that they had given up such a search during the past six months after failing to find a piece of equipment<sup>1</sup>.

Additionally, nurses are spending 35.3% of their time on documentation and 17.2% on medication administration according to further research<sup>2</sup>.

**In fact, one study shows that nurses spend only 37% of their time with patients<sup>3</sup>.**

Temperature is a vital sign that is included in all early warning scoring tools and as part of patient observations. Temperature is important in establishing a baseline to evaluate treatment, monitoring signs of any allergic reaction or infection, and recognising significant changes in a patient's condition.

And yet, in many hospitals nurses are still using contact thermometers such as the tympanic or axilla thermometer.

Both of these methods require a plastic probe cover at every reading. Nurses spend several minutes

per temperature reading, locating, attaching, and disposing of these probe covers. As temperatures are taken on every patient approximately every 4-6 hours, these methods can become very time consuming across the duration of a shift.

With TRITEMP™ medically graded non-contact thermometer no time is wasted as no probe covers are required and accurate temperature readings can be obtained in just seconds. One 150 bed hospital in Dublin said they saved over 500 hours in a year by switching to TRITEMP™<sup>4</sup>.

Nurses complete an average of 72.3 tasks per hour, changing thermometer probe covers shouldn't be one of them<sup>5</sup>. Improving productivity by just 5 minutes per shift could save the NHS £280million<sup>6</sup>.

**Find out how thousands of hospitals globally are saving valuable time by switching to non-contact. Visit [www.trimedika.com](http://www.trimedika.com)**

1 <https://www.nursingtimes.net/archive/nurses-waste-an-hour-a-shift-finding-equipment-10-02-2009/>  
2 [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/49845558\\_A\\_36-Hospital\\_Time\\_and\\_Motion\\_Study\\_How\\_Do\\_Medical-Surgical\\_Nurses\\_Spend\\_Their\\_Time](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/49845558_A_36-Hospital_Time_and_Motion_Study_How_Do_Medical-Surgical_Nurses_Spend_Their_Time)  
3 <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22111656/>  
4 Internal case study – principal Clinical Engineer, Bon Secours Dublin  
5 <https://healthcareglobal.com/company/hse-transforming-irelands-healthcare-digital-leader> (page 28 - 41).  
6 <https://www.nursingtimes.net/news/workforce/carter-review-recommends-new-measure-of-nurse-productivity-05-02-2016/>