

# COMPARATIVE EVALUATION

## ASSET TRACKING SYSTEMS

Keeping track of medical devices, supplies, and other objects in the healthcare setting can be challenging. Asset tracking, a new and evolving technology, gives hospitals the ability to detect, identify, and locate assets (e.g., infusion pumps, wheelchairs) at any time, as well as record the physical locations of those assets over time. ECRI an independent, not for profit health services research agency, recently published an overview of asset tracking for hospitals that choose to start the selection process for this technology now.

ECRI's guidance article found that while implementing an asset tracking system now would bring immediate benefits for some healthcare facilities, others are better off waiting for the marketplace to develop further. ECRI offers guidance and detailed criteria to help facilities make this decision.

A comprehensive follow-up article published in ECRI's *Health Devices* journal expands on product specifications and purchasing options. Hospitals can benefit from lessons learned through ECRI's testing of the process of installing an asset tracking system, included in an analysis in the same journal issue.

ECRI's evaluation critically examines the performance of four suppliers' systems products: the Agility Healthcare Solutions AgileTrac, the Ekahau RTLS (Real-Time Location System), the Radianse Find Assets, and the Versus Technology Versus Information System (VIS). The products are rated for two basic locating applications: finding equipment for IPM (inspection and preventive maintenance) and recalls, and finding it for clinical use. One model is rated Preferred for finding equipment. The systems are also rated for a more advanced application: inventory optimisation and workflow improvement only one received ECRI's Preferred rating for this advanced application. Healthcare facilities that decide to implement an asset tracking system will find ECRI's recommendations essential in the selection and purchasing process.

*For further information please contact us at 01707 831001 x520 or by e.mail at [info@ecri.org.uk](mailto:info@ecri.org.uk).*