

CASE STUDY |

Improving Airflow and Reducing Trip Hazards for North Bristol NHS Trust



AIRQON AIRIAL-1000 in use

AIM

To reduce the number of infection outbreaks by improving airflow and to limit the number of obstacles and trip hazards on a frailty pathway ward.

METHOD

North Bristol NHS Foundation Trust initially introduced [Airqon HEPA-800](#) mobile air filtration units in Ward 1 of the Elgar Enablement Unit. This is a compact freestanding unit capable of air ionisation and HEPA 13 filtration at a flow rate of up to 800 cubic metres an hour.

While the Trust was satisfied with the performance of the units, the ward was caring for patients on the frailty pathway and the freestanding HEPA-800 and its power leads created obstacles and potential trip hazards.

The original air ventilation system of this older building was also inadequate, so when ceiling renovation was required the Trust saw an opportunity to remove these obstacles by upgrading to ceiling-mounted units.

The [Airqon Aerial-1000](#) delivers an increased maximum airflow rate of 1000 cubic metres an hour from a discreet and compact flush-fitting unit. Its five-stage air filtration and UV-C light sterilisation technology ensure quiet operation and rapid air disinfection. As a four-way ceiling-mounted unit, the Aerial-1000 also distributes air more evenly with fewer air-flow barriers, while keeping the floor space clear of obstacles and trip hazards.

In conjunction with other renovation works, installation of the sixteen new Aerial-1000 units had to be carried out on a live ward. Due to excellent project management by Inivos and collaboration between Inivos, the Trust's Infection Control Team and its facilities department, this was completed without disturbing the patients or disrupting the staff's work.

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RESULT

The new remotely-controlled air filtration units have substantially improved air flow in the ward, eliminating the barriers to ventilation that are a challenge with floor-level units. The floor space is now clearer, enabling easier circulation for patients, staff and equipment without the previous obstacles and trip hazards.

The HEPA-800 units have been deployed to another location within the hospital, where trip hazards are less of a concern. Following the completion of the work, North Bristol NHS Foundation Trust has placed a further order for the installation of Aerial-1000 units on another floor of the building.

With the upgraded system, it is anticipated that the Trust will see benefits to patient experience, with decreased patient-patient nosocomial spread and faster response to any incidence of infection.

“Our infection control team worked really hard to source the best products for us as an organisation and has been impressed by how we’ve been able to upgrade to the new units and reassign the mobile ones. The ceiling units are really important in the Elgar Unit because of the people that we’re looking after – we’re always looking for equipment to reduce obstacles that hinder safe mobility – so they are clearly much better for this environment.”

Juliette Hughes, Deputy Chief Nurse



“Inivos has been a fantastic company to work with. They’ve been working mainly with our senior leaders and I have been very much involved in the installation process. The units were installed without a problem and we have been very pleased with the result.”

Bethany Deverson, Senior Sister/Ward Manager

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