HOW TO INSTALL, IMPLEMENT AND USE A REAL-TIME PATIENT DATA DISPLAY SYSTEM

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A working, real-time patient data display system was purchased in March, 1973, and installed in the cardio-thoracic Department of Wythenshawe Hospital, Manchester. Within six months, this information system had replaced all the bedside charts and patient notes. The use of the terminals for inputting and inspecting 120 parameters, drugs and free text notes had become an integral part of the routine work within the intensive therapy unit, coronary care unit, cardio-thoracic theatres and attendant laboratories. Education and training of a multi-disciplinary team of nurses, doctors, laboratory and paramedical staff was accomplished by an experienced registered nurse and a computer advisor. During the first year of operation the system was not modified, but after this period the comments of all users were, collected and detail changes to the system made at two specific times.

The paper discusses the benefits occruing from such a system and enumerates the advantages of installing a complete working system instead of developing slowly from a collection of hardware.