



Date: February 2010

### **Leicester exceeds 99% uptime with Asterol**

170 items of major medical equipment managed by Asterol under their partnership with University of Leicester Hospitals NHS Trust (UHL) have performed at over 99% uptime during the last 12 months.

In addition to the large volume of imaging and diagnostic equipment covering all the major modalities, Asterol manages robotic pharmacies as well as mobile trailers that assist UHL deliver care in the community. Asterol also procures new equipment, provides on-site maintenance and training.

Working across all three of the Trust's hospitals, Asterol runs two Managed Equipment Services (MES) for the Trust. The first MES, which has run since May 2004, delivered an average equipment uptime of 99.77% across 62 items of equipment over the past 12 months. The second MES which includes older and more complex equipment has been operational since August 2007 and achieved an average uptime of 99.52%.

Ernie Thompson, Equipment and Contracts Manager at the Trust, explained that "scheduling procedures becomes far easier because we know we can rely on our equipment. In turn, delivering care becomes far more efficient across the Trust."

Talking about the challenging operating environment facing the whole of the NHS over the next few years, Ernie Thompson added: "the MES arrangements are already helping us plan for the future because regardless of changes to capital budgets, we will be able to stick to our plans to install new state-of-the-art equipment while being flexible enough to meet the changes and demands of the financial climate. So the benefits go beyond operational efficiencies because we know we will continue to improve the quality of patient care we deliver year on year. We look to be more innovative in our joint approach to the equipment agenda to account for strategic changes and working with the wider healthcare community."

[www.asteral.com](http://www.asteral.com)

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Accompanying photo “UHL gamma camera and team” showing left to right:

1. Charlotte Surrige – Nuclear Medicine Technician
2. Patrick Harper – Assistant Technical Officer
3. Sharon McMahon – Chief Nuclear Medicine Technician
4. Claire Greaves – Head of Nuclear Medicine
5. Ernie Thompson – UHL Equipment & Contracts Manager
6. Robert Mason – Asterol Operations Manager – Leicester
7. Darren Woolley – Asterol General Manager – Leicester

Further information for notes to editors:

**UHL MES 1**

62 imaging assets (includes, CT, MRI, Fluoro, Analogue X-Ray & Computed Radiology), across 3 sites (Leicester General Hospital, Leicester Royal Infirmary and Glenfield) installed in 2003 and 2004  
Scheme has been operational since May 2004  
Current average Uptime is 99.77%

**UHL MES 2**

171 assets (includes CT, MRI, Cath Labs, Angio, Fluoro, Digital X-Ray, Analogue X-Ray, Computed Radiology, Gamma Cameras, Digital Mammo, Mobile Mammo Trailers, Ultrasound, Echo & Pharmacy Robots), across 3 sites (Leicester General Hospital, Leicester Royal Infirmary and Glenfield), age profiles are variable, but 90 assets have been replaced since Aug 2007  
Scheme has been operational since Aug 2007  
Current average Uptime is 99.52%