

Making the Move from G4 to XT Automated Dispensing Cabinets

The story of Texas Children's conversion journey



THE CHALLENGE

An Omnicell customer for over 20 years, Texas Children's Hospital was eager to upgrade to the XT Automated Dispensing Cabinets to meet its growing needs for more accountability, efficiency, and safety in medication management. But with 188 cabinets across three campuses, it needed a streamlined way to make the conversion—without interrupting patient care.

THE SOLUTION

The hospital worked side by side with Omnicell to create an efficient conversion process that minimized downtime and allowed staff to seamlessly maintain patient care. The time to switch out one cabinet? A mere 20 minutes.

Focusing on Minimal Downtime

For Gee Mathen, Assistant Director of Pharmacy for Texas Children's Hospital, the thought of upgrading nearly 200 G4 cabinets to Omnicell's XT series was exciting—but also nerve-wracking.

"We were switching out a living, breathing unit; we couldn't afford to have a lot of downtime," Mathen explained. "But because of the way Omnicell had prepared for the conversion, it worked out beautifully."

CUSTOMER PROFILE

Texas Children's Hospital is ranked No. 4 on the U.S. News & World Report Best Children's Hospitals 2017-18 Honor Roll. The hospital has three campuses, 650-plus beds, and more than 31,000 annual admissions.

Texas Children's has been relying on Omnicell technology since 1995 to support efficient medication management for its mother-baby and pediatric patient populations.

REASONS FOR CONVERTING TO XT

- Create a uniform system across campuses
- Add Controlled Substance Dispenser
- Improve capacity and efficiency

TRANSITION TIPS

- Time each step of the conversion process
- Plan for differences in drawer configurations
- Communicate clearly with all stakeholders

“The biggest key was partnership—having the Omnicell team and techs right beside us and understanding our strategy.”

**TIME TO SWAP TO XT?
20 MINUTES
PER CABINET**



Converting to XT Cabinets, Step by Step

GETTING READY

1. Texas Children's and Omnicell teams assessed the impacted areas and any space limitations.
2. Gaining leadership support was key. The hospital communicated extensively with senior leaders, nursing, pharmacists, Information Services, electronic health records staff, and other stakeholders.
3. The teams conducted testing and troubleshooting, created schematics of each drawer's contents (accounting for differences between G4 and XT bin sizes), and preconfigured the new XT cabinet—assigning bins and shelves and labeling and barcoding non-controlled medications.

GOING LIVE

Texas Children's began the conversion at one of its smaller satellite campuses. The first cabinet swap took just 30 minutes; the team has since shrunk that time to 20 minutes. The technical “transplant” involves five simple steps:

1. Roll up the new XT cabinet.
2. Destock the G4 cabinet and remove it from the server.
3. Bring the XT cabinet online.
4. Use inventory from the offline G4 cabinet to stock the XT cabinet.
5. Install the FlexLock Refrigerator Lock and Temperature Monitor, external return bins, and pull-out drawers for supplies.

The team meticulously timed every task in the planning and go-live process. This helped the hospital allocate the right resources and create on-time rollout schedules.

The implementation continues to move ahead smoothly and will be completed soon. Meanwhile, the XT cabinets are getting rave reviews from nurses. “It's been fantastic,” Mathen said. “Everybody else is asking, ‘When do we get ours?’ It's been positive across the board.”

Learn more about Omnicell® XT Automated Dispensing Cabinets at www.omnicell.com/xt.