

Improving Cath Lab efficiency and cardiologist ED responsiveness

Efficient Cath Lab operation is financially important to both hospitals and interventional cardiologists. Lab efficiency is often compromised when cardiologists are called to attend to urgent cases in the ED or on the patient floors. Dr. Delair Gardi, Director of the Cath Lab and Chief of Cardiology at the Detroit Medical Center's Harper Hospital, is using Remote Presence Robotics to reduce Cath Lab interruptions by over 50% while improving his ED responsiveness.



BENEFITS OF REMOTE PRESENCE

- Improve Cath Lab efficiency
- Improve ED efficiency
- Improve cardiologist efficiency
- Better patient care

“I am in the Cath Lab 4 full days per week, so it is quite common for me to be called to evaluate an ED patient in the middle of a busy Cath Lab schedule. These urgent calls inevitably take 45 minutes to an hour by the time I get to the ED, see the patient, talk to the family member and write orders. Using the Robot I can accomplish the same steps in 5-10 minutes right from the Cath Lab.

I recall one recent example when Dr. Washington called from the ED regarding a patient with chest pain that she felt needed urgent catheterization. At that moment, I had two patients in two different labs so it would have required that we take one of the patients off the table to address the urgent need. This disruption would have set back the Cath Lab schedule for several hours at significant hospital cost and patient satisfaction loss. I logged onto the Robot located in the ED from the Cath Lab Control Station to evaluate the patient myself. After interviewing the patient and looking at his data including EKG, I determined the patient to be in stable condition and that an urgent catheterization was not necessary. I was very comfortable with this evaluation and admitted him to the floor service. In this particular case I addressed a potentially urgent situation in a very timely way, I admitted the patient and therefore helped ED operations, I saved myself time, and I reduced the impact on Cath Lab operations to the five or six minutes I spent evaluating the patient through the Robot.” – Delair Gardi, MD



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