



# Robots **FREE UP** staff, **SAVE** time and **INCREASE** efficacy of distribution activities

## Robot Revolution: *rise in pharmacy automation proving the way to a better future*

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### Background

- Traditionally, medications in pharmacy are stored on external shelving requiring manual inventory processes that lead to storage inefficiencies and selection errors.
- As part of the medicines automation strategy in NALHN, a dispensing robot (ROWA™) was commissioned in March 2021 at Lyell McEwin Hospital to improve safety and efficiency in medication processing, storage and distribution.

### Aims

To assess the impact of robot implementation on time taken to perform various inventory processes

### Method

- A pre-post time and motion study was conducted over a three-week period pre and post implementation
- Efficiency was determined by timing distribution tasks undertaken by Allied Health Assistants (AHA) pre- and post-implementation

### What our staff thought

#### Positive staff response

- 98% staff satisfaction with ROWA™ implementation following formal staff survey

### What was achieved?

#### Overall time saved on distribution activities

<b>50%</b> Reduction in time to goods receive	<b>39%</b> Reduction in time to fill imprests	<b>43%</b> Reduction in time taken to perform distribution activities	<b>1.8 hours</b> Allied Health Assistant (AHA) time saved per day
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#### Increased stock take efficiency

<b>5 minutes</b> full ROWA™ stock take	<b>vs</b>	<b>51 hours</b> Allied Health Assistant (AHA) time
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#### Greater efficient storage

<b>10.4 linear metres</b> of shelving released	<b>11,970 packs</b> stored in the ROWA™	<b>6,640,844 steps</b> saved per year within pharmacy
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### To infinity and beyond... what's next?

- Continual automation expansion strategy with ward based Automated Dispensing Cabinets (ADCs)
- Continual review of optimal stock location
- Considering next steps to achieve Close Loop Medication Management (CLMM)

For more information

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