



SVUH's JCI Accreditation – The Role of Clinical Engineers

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Introduction St. Vincent's University Hospital (SVUH), one of Ireland's leading teaching hospitals, provides over 50 medical speciality services. Our Emergency Department is the major referral centre for patients with strokes and major trauma. We are home to the National Centre for Cystic Fibrosis, National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP), National Liver Transplant Programme and the National Pancreas Transplant Programme (1). A team of ten clinical engineers provide support to all of the major clinical specialities.



About JCI Joint Commission International (JCI) is one of the world's leading non-profit patient safety organizations. JCI outline standards, intents, and measurable elements (ME's) which should be met to ensure that every patient receives the highest quality of care . An organisation is awarded the JCI accreditation only when these standards are met. The facility management and safety standards (FMS) is a module within the JCI standards which outlines the requirements for the management of medical equipment (2).

FMS and ME's The standards which are met primarily by clinical engineers are outlined under FMS 9 in JCI standards for hospitals, 7th edition.

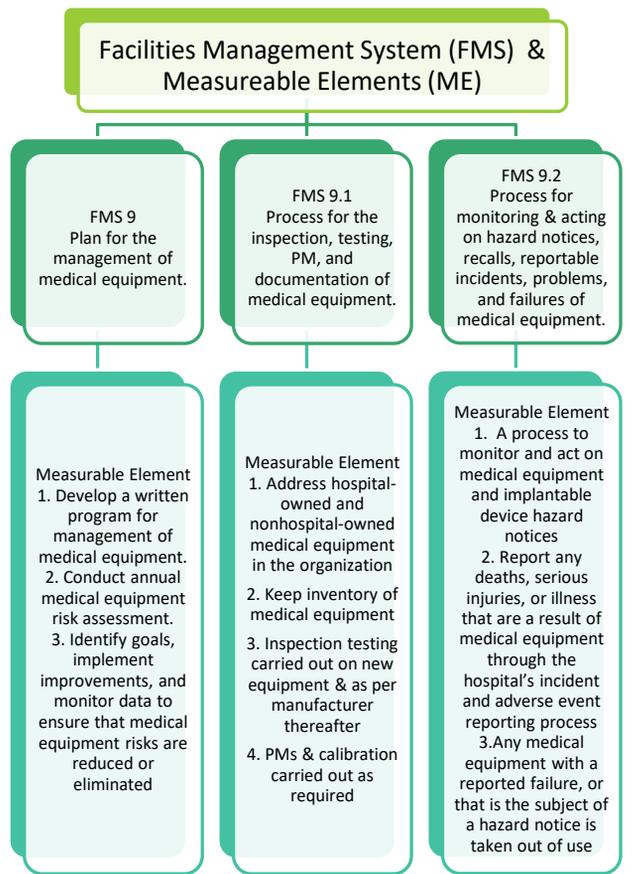


Figure 1: Overview of FMS standards & ME's (2)

Meeting the Measurable Elements In order to meet the measurable elements, several policies and procedures were put in place. In response to FMS 9.2, ME 1, a policy was written to outline the steps taken to ensure all medical device hazards/recalls are responded to and documented appropriately. This procedure is visualised in figure 2 below.

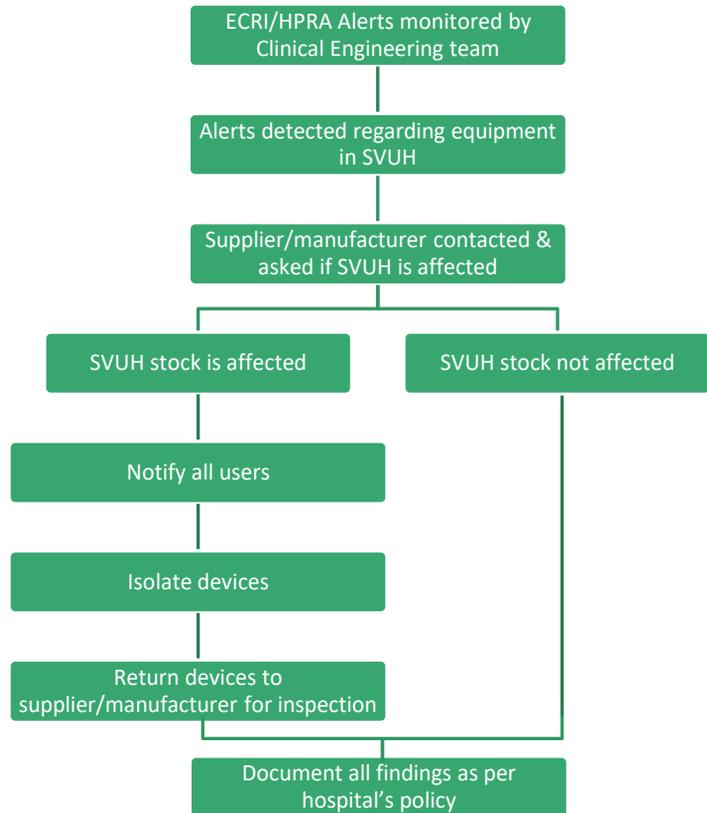


Figure 2: Process of the response to safety alerts regarding medical devices

Conclusion The biggest challenge for clinical engineers during the process was to convert the measurable elements into policies and procedures, and to implement the services to meet the standards. Since implementing these policies, we have seen a huge improvement in the quality of the services provided around the hospital. In 2022, SVUH was awarded the JCI accreditation for the fourth time, and is the only public hospital in Ireland to have attained the accreditation.