

# CASE STUDY:

*Wireless digital temperature monitoring in a pharmaceutical environment*



## Client

*Hancock Regional Hospital* is a full-service community hospital based in Greenfield, Indiana, serving the region with a focus on primary care, patient comfort, and convenience. HRH offers a high percentage of private rooms and a highly skilled medical and professional nursing staff.

The hospital provides a new, state-of-the-art cancer care facility with its own linear accelerator, surgery, long-term critical care, OB services, hospice, and a full complement of inpatient and outpatient services.

## Challenge

*Protect invaluable vaccines and ensure consistent pharmacy storage temperatures.*

According to Tim Livesay, HRH pharmacy director, pharmacy operational efficiencies were challenged by the hospital's monitoring system in use at the time.

"Our refrigeration system was monitored manually," Livesay said. "A staff member would go to each unit and record the temperature on a handheld thermometer. Vaccine storage units require two readings each day. The problem with this type of monitoring is that you only know what the temperature is at the time of the reading. How do you know what is happening the other 23 hours and 59 minutes?"

## Solution

*Monitoring, measuring, and managing.*

SONICU provided HRH with wireless temperature sensors spread across three floors of the hospital. The wireless communication platform transferred data to SoniCloud, SONICU's cloud-based server. SONICU's system allowed staff to access temperature data for all hospital refrigerators at any time by desktop, tablet or cell phone and receive immediate alerts when temperatures fell below established parameters.

Regulatory calibration compliance was also made simpler with SONICU's Snap Calibration Program that made recalibration as easy as replacing the out-of-date temperature probe with a new one sent directly from SONICU. The process eliminated unnecessary expense and downtime.

## Results

*Peace of mind.*

SONICU's solution provided immediate benefit by pinpointing a significant problem that could have wiped out an expensive inventory of refrigerated vaccines: The hospital's refrigeration units had become antiquated and were unable to maintain the required temperatures. SONICU monitoring reports provided necessary data to verify the inconsistencies and the justification for new equipment. Monitoring reports also helped identify other loss risk issues and offered strategic insights to implement new procedures that protect inventory integrity.

