



# How Inova Reorganized PAPER Management During a Pandemic

*Inova transformed all PAPER management operations, fitting them into one digital solution in Veoci.*

## Overview

### The Need

Inova Fairfax Medical Campus needed a more accurate, effective and time-saving method for tracking and managing PAPERs.

### The Solution

An easy-to-use system that tracked the use and location of blowers, documented inspections, provided alerts on maintenance due dates, and monitored the availability of supplies.

### The Benefit

A system that delivers clean and interpretable data, and one that gives time back to all hospital staff.

Hospitals and other healthcare facilities have long lists of daily duties that ensure the safety of not only their patients, but their employees as well.

The COVID-19 pandemic only added more duties, responsibilities, and operations to that already long list. Cleaning and sanitation measures, in addition to inventory/PPE management have come to the forefront, and become some of the most important operations hospitals and their staffs engage in on a daily basis.

The Atlantic coast experienced the initial wave of the pandemic in spring 2020, and this put the health systems on the coast under immediate pressure. Inova Fairfax Medical Campus (IFMC) part of the Inova Health System, a 1000 bed facility in Northern Virginia that serves the Washington, D.C., area experienced a surge of patients.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) is essential to responding to a pandemic. PPE is critical to keeping medical professionals safe as they treat patients. While some types of equipment are disposable, others are reusable, like powered air-purifying respirators (PAPERs).

Inova had 2 caches PAPERs before the COVID-19 pandemic began; one cache served disaster scenarios, while the other cache was deployed for day-to-day use for staff who could not wear an N95.

Kimberly Nagel, CEM, managed the disaster cache among her many duties as the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator at the Inova Fairfax Medical Campus. The day to day cache was managed by Supply Chain. Each cache was managed in different systems that could not talk to the other.

The disaster cache employed a cumbersome inventory system. "It was limiting in the data that I could collect and the reports I could get out of it." This system also required PAPER recipients to have a user account in the system, which was not feasible or

manageable. The day-to-day cache was tracked through a manual paper process.

When the COVID-19 pandemic began, IFMC had 100 PAPRs. In 2 short months an additional 75 blowers were acquired. Having disparate processes with largely manual components wasn't sustainable under the stress of a pandemic and influx of resources. These devices, in addition to being assigned and tracked, also need routine inspections, maintenance, and to be rotated in and out of service as needed.

When these needs became clear, Kimberly sought a solution that could support the PAPR-related operations and seamlessly work alongside the fast-paced and demanding hospital environment created by the pandemic.

"We built an end-to-end solution for PAPR inventory, inspection, maintenance, and deployment. I can go to a dashboard and add blowers to the inventory or take them out of service, work through the inspection documentation, and automatically link the inspection record back to that original inventory record. "Furthermore, Supply Chain and Emergency Management were now using the same system, cohesively managing the resource without duplicating efforts.

Additionally, the solution allows Kimberly and the IFMC team to track the disposable PAPR pieces, like hoods, breathing tubes, and filters. Not only does she always have a view of what's in the warehouse, she also has a sightline into the burn rates and existing inventory of disposable PAPR equipment. This helped her recognize the surplus the IFMC had, prevent unnecessary ordering, and use existing resources more effectively within the hospital.

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Ensuring the blowers are effective and safe is necessary too. With this Veoci solution, Kimberly can easily extract the data and reports that show when blowers need maintenance inspections, the date of the last performed inspection and who performed it, and a total history of inspections completed. The output from Veoci helps Kimberly justify personnel and operational costs to leadership.

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Moving forward, Kimberly and the team at IFMC can continue daily operations knowing their PAPRs and associated equipment are accounted for, available, and working so that hospital staff are safe during a pandemic. It's sustainable, and will be able to carry IFMC through this pandemic and the eventual return to normalcy.