

Prognosis: Excellent – Concord Hospital Implements Preventative Maintenance for its Food Services Division

“The refrigerators run 24x7 – even if you do not,” so says Tom Serafin, Director of Food Services for Concord Hospital (www.concordhospital.org), in Concord NH. “The units need to be monitored consistently to ensure compliance with the many regulatory agencies who oversee the hospital.”

Like many other hospitals, for years the food services division manually monitored its refrigeration units – someone would walk from unit to unit and log the time and temperature twice a day. It was time consuming, and required those taking the measurements to be extremely detailed in order to accurately reflect the temperatures. The staff was then required to respond to those temperatures not in range. File drawers full of handwritten temperature logs were kept in Serafin’s office.

Because the hospital has recently implemented the Sensatronics Environmental Management Solution (SEMS), refrigeration units are now monitored automatically, data is stored online, and Serafin is alerted immediately if refrigerator temperatures are out of range or doors are kept open for a prolonged amount of time. The Sensatronics (www.sensatronics.com) solution was recommended to the hospital because of its cost-effective, feature-rich capabilities and its simple Web-based configuration that allows the health of the food services division to be monitored from any computer with Internet services.

Comprised of both hardware and software, the SEMS solution triggers alerts and alarms based on thresholds defined by Serafin, and can send them to a pager, cell phone or text messenger. “I was impressed with the simplicity of the solution, as well as the low cost. It was extremely affordable,” says Serafin. Couple that with risk of losing a refrigerator containing up to \$10,000 worth of food and this simple solution could pay for itself with one alert. Sensatronics automated solutions have even been known to increase compliance to food safety and quality audits.

If Concord Hospital chooses to expand its environmental monitoring system, SEMS can be configured to monitor other hospital divisions as well. From blood banks to pharmacies to labs – any division that requires cold-storage monitoring is a great candidate for Sensatronics SEMS.

Sensatronics can implement a cost-effective preventative solution for you, too. For more information regarding Sensatronics environmental monitoring solutions, access www.sensatronics.com or contact us at 800-633-1033.