

# Improving Access, Workflow and Infection Prevention at Okinawa's Oldest NICU



Okinawa Chubu Central Hospital has long been dedicated to never turning away a patient; as such, it accepts those that other hospitals cannot. Until 2004, it served as Okinawa's only emergency medical center, and it remains a central acute care facility for the prefecture. It holds the distinction of opening one of Japan's first neonatal intensive care units (NICU), where the bed count has increased from 8 to 18 over the years.

## Project Snapshot

### HOSPITAL

Okinawa Chubu Central Hospital  
281 Miyazato, Uruma-shi  
Okinawa-en 904-2243, Japan  
Established April 24, 1946

### GCX PRODUCT

VHRC Cart for Monitor and Keyboard

**NUMBER OF BEDS:** 550

### ISSUES RESOLVED:

- Easier cart access for medical charting at NICU patient bedsides
- Space savings and workflow improvement
- Cart height is easily adjusted to accommodate different point-of-care users
- Easily adaptable components for storage and other functions
- Easily cleaned for infection prevention

The hospital's mission is to serve all in need, and especially those with serious illnesses or injuries. Clinicians are always busy and in search of ways to save time on charting and documentation without compromising on patient care. That includes those who treat the infants and children admitted to the hospital's specialized intensive care unit.



The NICU room is designed so that all cables descend from the center of the ceiling. These connect to a fleet of medical charting carts that are then wheeled to each patient's bed as needed. With such a room configuration,

it is important that the mobile carts be as unobtrusive as possible, so they do not impede workflows or access to young patients.

Recently, GCX partnered with Okinawa Chubu Central Hospital to deploy several VHRC Variable Height Carts with a Slim-Line Base for their monitors and keyboards. These medical-grade carts adjust from 120 to 160 cm in height and weigh from 9 to 23 kg, depending on the model. The Okinawa Chubu Central carts were equipped with a flush display mount that allows the monitor to tilt as needed. The carts also contained a keyboard tray with left and right slide-out mouse trays, and a Stor-Lock storage drawer that can be secured by key. A CPU mount is positioned at the back of the cart.

Since the deployment, the medical staff reports the carts are easy to move swiftly throughout the NICU, saving them time without any impediment to workflows. They are impressed with the carts' space-saving size and smooth height adjustment.

Infection control is important in any healthcare setting and especially in a NICU. GCX products are made to withstand medical-grade



detergents and daily cleanings. As such, the VHRC cart's surfaces are both durable and as smooth as possible, making it easier for staff to follow equipment sanitation protocols and reduce the risk of infections.

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