

## **Case Study: Viamed Ltd's Engagement with the NHS to Support the Net Zero Agenda**

### **Objective:**

As part of Viamed Ltd's commitment to sustainability and in alignment with the NHS's Net Zero agenda, a collaboration with Royal Preston Hospital was developed to innovate servicing processes for medical equipment. This initiative aimed at reducing carbon emissions, optimizing resource use, and extending the lifecycle of critical healthcare products.

### **Challenge:**

The healthcare sector faces significant challenges in reducing its carbon footprint, given the critical nature of its services and the reliance on medical equipment that requires regular maintenance. Traditional on-site servicing of medical equipment at Royal Preston Hospital required engineers to travel frequently, contributing to increased carbon emissions and operational inefficiencies. The hospital sought to minimize its environmental impact while maintaining the highest standards of equipment reliability and patient care.

### **Solution:**

Viamed Ltd introduced a back-to-base servicing model, transitioning from the conventional on-site maintenance. Key components of this new approach included:

- **Centralized Servicing:** Equipment is sent to a specialized Viamed Ltd facility, equipped with advanced tools and technologies for comprehensive servicing, thus ensuring higher efficiency and quality control.
- **Courier Partnership:** Collaboration with UPS, known for its carbon reduction and net-zero policy, ensured the eco-friendly transportation of medical equipment to and from the hospital.
- **Lifecycle Extension:** The focus shifted towards not only repairing but also thoroughly refurbishing medical equipment, significantly extending its usable life and reducing the need for premature replacements.

### **Impact:**

- **Reduced Carbon Emissions:** The shift to back-to-base servicing, combined with UPS's eco-friendly logistics, markedly lowered the carbon footprint associated with the maintenance of medical equipment. Preliminary estimates indicate a reduction of travel-related carbon emissions by over 30% within the first year of implementation.
- **Extended Equipment Lifecycle:** Enhanced servicing techniques have led to a noticeable improvement in the longevity and reliability of medical devices, contributing to the hospital's sustainability goals and reducing waste.

- **Operational Efficiencies:** The new model has streamlined the servicing process, reducing downtime for equipment and allowing hospital staff to focus more on patient care rather than operational logistics.

### **Future Directions:**

Buoyed by the success at Royal Preston Hospital, Viamed Ltd plans to expand the back-to-base servicing model to other NHS facilities, further contributing to the healthcare sector's sustainability objectives. Ongoing evaluation and adaptation of servicing practices will ensure alignment with evolving environmental standards and technological advancements.

### **Conclusion:**

Viamed Ltd's innovative approach to servicing medical equipment, in partnership with the NHS and working with Royal Preston Hospital, Lancashire Teaching Hospitals and other NHS trusts, exemplifies how strategic changes in operations can significantly contribute to the Net Zero agenda. This initiative not only demonstrates environmental leadership but also underscores the potential for sustainability to enhance service quality and operational efficiency in healthcare.