

Advanced Monitoring on General Wards for the Continuum of Patient Care



Wards play a key role in the patient trajectory and are often responsible for long-term recovery and rehabilitation after acute care. However, they can sometimes be viewed as a lower priority, reports **Lili Alves** – Clinical Applications Specialist at OxygenCare

The idea that only acute areas like ICU or emergency departments require high-tech vital signs monitors is a misconception. While it is true that these areas handle critically ill patients, the need for advanced monitoring technology extends to general wards as well. These wards are crucial to the patient care continuum. Without adequate resources, monitoring, and attention, the wards can become areas where patients deteriorate unnoticed, leading to unnecessary transfers to acute care or prolonged recovery. Modern and efficient vital signs monitors play a critical role in the wards by providing continuous, real-time patient health data, enabling early detection of potential issues and timely interventions. In today's healthcare environment, patient safety and outcomes heavily rely on accurate and reliable monitoring technology. Not all high-risk patients are in acute care settings. Elderly patients, those with chronic conditions, or postoperative patients are often found in general wards. These individuals benefit greatly from continuous, accurate monitoring, as they may develop complications unexpectedly.

The need for investment in efficient vital signs monitors on the wards is more critical than ever, especially when considering the future demands of healthcare. Modern monitors that offer continuous monitoring, advanced connectivity, and early warning scoring systems (such as Modified Early Warning System/National Early Warning System) not only improve patient outcomes today

but also ensure that hospitals are equipped for tomorrow's challenges. Investing in adaptable, scalable equipment helps hospitals stay ahead of rising patient numbers, evolving care models, and technological advances such as AI and remote monitoring. The future of monitoring such as GE HealthCare's Portrait™ VSM vital signs monitor continues building on the trusted DINAMAP legacy with innovative and future-focused capabilities. It delivers the clinical excellence and workflow efficiencies you expect, but with the next era of healthcare in mind. By choosing future-proof solutions that integrate with existing systems, enhance staff efficiency and prioritise data security, hospitals can ensure both immediate patient safety and long-term operational success. Additionally, sustainable and cost-effective devices support the broader goal of reducing environmental impact while lowering maintenance costs, making such investments essential for forward-thinking healthcare systems.

In conclusion, general wards are critical for patient recovery and should not be overlooked in the quest for advanced monitoring technology. Effective vital signs monitors are essential for detecting early signs of deterioration, especially for high-risk patients outside of acute care settings. Investing in modern, scalable, and connected monitoring solutions improves patient safety, prepares hospitals for future healthcare demands, and supports operational efficiency and sustainability.