

**“The Roche Inventory  
Solution is a good fit  
*for our inventory  
management needs*”**





Lillebælt Hospital at Vejle,  
Denmark

**The facts:** Public general and cancer hospital serving over 20,000 patients each year

**The people:** Birgitte Henriksen and Merete Villumsen, Functional Biomedical Laboratory Scientists

**The solution:** Roche Inventory Solution (RIS)

**The aim:** Save time in inventory taking and ordering; automate manual tasks

**The outcome:** Faster, more efficient inventory processes

# Meeting *specific demands*

**Vejle Hospital forms part of Lillebælt regional hospital group, located in the town of Vejle, Denmark. It is a general admissions facility that treats around 20,000 patients each year. In addition, it also delivers specialist cancer care, with leading oncology and hematology units including for breast, colon and prostate cancer as well as myeloma.**

**The clinical biochemistry department of Vejle Hospital plays an important role in treatment and diagnosis, processing pathology samples from across the site. Its defined service level agreements (SLAs) specify fast turnaround times – with results required within one hour for life-saving care and four hours for accelerated care. Working to such tight schedules means the biochemical team is frequently under pressure – and needs to focus intently on their work. To help free up additional time for core tasks, the facility has introduced Roche Inventory Solution.**

The biochemical lab at Vejle Hospital employs a skilled team working 24/7 to process blood and tissue samples. To perform the necessary tests, the biomedical laboratory scientists use the **cobas<sup>®</sup> 8000** medical analyzer from Roche. Merete Villumsen is responsible for running **cobas<sup>®</sup> 8000**, including safeguarding the supply of reagents, and quality control. In addition, she trains existing and new colleagues to help them work independently. She explains: “The primary role of our department is to support patients by delivering accurate answers fast. That is our main aim.”

Short turnaround times mean staff need to concentrate fully on their tasks – and they need to rely on sufficient stocks of the right consumables being available when they need them. But ordering, processing, storing and managing these items is a time-consuming business.

In the past, inventory control was sometimes a challenge. Striking the right balance between having too much and too little stock proved difficult at times. “We placed orders annually and it was always tricky to estimate what we’d need for the year,” explains Ms. Villumsen. “So we’d end up with surplus supplies which meant expiration dates became an issue. When reagents and calibrators expire, you can’t use them and have to discard them, creating additional effort and unnecessary waste.”

Moreover, unpacking deliveries and storing the items on the shelves in the lab’s basement would take two employees a whole day – valuable time that could have been used for more meaningful work.

**Birgitte Henriksen  
in the stock room**





**RIS helps staff at Vejle keep track of stock and reduce inventory**

### **First of its kind in Denmark**

To free up capacity and automate and streamline inventory management, the biochemical department decided to introduce a new workflow – Roche Inventory Solution (RIS). Based on the existing technology agreement with Roche and a strong working relationship, RIS was deemed a good fit for Vejle Hospital's needs.

Since this was the first implementation of its kind in Denmark, Roche representatives were close at hand to oversee roll-out and deliver targeted training. Ms. Villumsen recalls: "Employees from Roche in Denmark and Roche Global came to train us and install the system. They taught us how to enter products and product numbers, manage orders and scan items. And after the implementation phase, we went live and began using RIS for real."

During this implementation phase, inventory was limited to Roche products, including reagents and calibrators. However, once the solution was up and running and staff were familiar with its functions, Vejle extended the system to include third-party items, which can be easily integrated into RIS. "RIS is a good fit for our needs. It lets us keep track of inventory items from Roche but it also

allows us to integrate products from other third-party vendors which is very useful," declares Ms. Villumsen.

### **Automating manual processes**

RIS provides visibility into inventory processes helping labs better manage ordering, forecasting, consumption monitoring, expiration, delivery and storage. The solution leverages easy-to-use barcode technology, and employees at Vejle use handheld readers to quickly scan items.

Birgitte Henriksen is a functional biomedical laboratory scientist at Vejle and, along with her colleague Ms. Villumsen, responsible for the smooth running of **cobas**<sup>®</sup> 8000 processes. "It is my job to ensure we have a good, efficient working day," she explains. "I need to make sure we are ready when the samples arrive and that our machines are up and running with as little downtime as possible. I also train students and colleagues and I take care of the inventory and all sorts of rules and instructions."

Since the RIS implementation, Ms. Henriksen has noticed a marked improvement in inventory management. "We used to have to count the boxes on the shelves and work out how much of an item we had left and approximately when it would run out. Now we have a much clearer overview in RIS and can manage new orders more efficiently. In the past, colleagues would leave a note to say something was running low. Now, they know we automatically receive new orders every two weeks, so they are no longer worried about running out of the products they need to do their job."

*"RIS is an easy system to work with. It's logical – and it's efficient."*

*Merete Villumsen, Functional Biomedical Laboratory Scientist*

**Reduce complexity**

Intuitive, automated inventory administration; simple integration of third-party inventory items; no need for RFID tags or WiFi coverage

**Gain control**

Configure multiple sites and segments; define and adjust minimum and maximum inventory levels; manage product expiration

**Do more with less**

Simplify lab management; eliminate manual stock taking; leverage existing infrastructure – no need for RFID workarounds

**Elevate the value of your decisions**

Increase confidence in managing stock; gain insights into consumption and identify patterns; integrate with Excel for further reporting and analysis



**Ms. Villumsen and Ms. Henriksen at work in the lab**

**Easy to use**

Transitioning from a largely manual process to an automated workflow was straightforward and staff were quick to accept the new approach.

**Built around Vejle's needs**

A further advantage of RIS is the more efficient management of expiration dates. Since inventory is now kept at a lower level, there is less risk of products expiring before they are needed. This helps prevent waste and lets Vejle make more efficient use of resources.

*“[With RIS] we save a lot of time and have a much better view of our inventory. We don't need as big an inventory, so products rarely expire.”*

*Birgitte Henriksen, Functional Biomedical Laboratory Scientist*

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