

Lab & production services
chemical management

Success story

Hazardous Materials Compliance

CANCER TREATMENT CENTER ACCELERATES RESEARCH IN THE FACE OF SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE NEEDS

PROBLEM

The challenge of complying with hazardous materials regulations had become increasingly difficult for one of the world's most renowned cancer treatment and research centers. Updating spreadsheets annually in each laboratory was no longer adequate for reporting hazardous substances in a close-in research-to-patient care facility. However, the center's leadership knew that requiring scientists to maintain its hazmat records in real time would impose too great a burden and drain valuable time from research. Such time is highly valued at this higher education and research institute, which must rapidly translate scientific knowledge gained in the laboratory into clinical care. The center strives to dramatically accelerate the pace of converting scientific discoveries into clinical advances that reduce cancer deaths.

Beneath the broader challenge of hazardous materials management, the center needed to address the following questions:

- Are the laboratory spreadsheets accurate? Are filings complete? Could the center pass an audit, or would fines be imposed?
- How could the center evaluate the time and resources needed to compile hundreds of files to produce reports multiple times per year? How could the center accurately and efficiently review, correct, merge, and translate data for each report? Are the quantity and nature of hazardous substances in any given area documented?
- What is the liability of having unknown substances in close proximity to patients, workers, and visitors? Is the environment safe? Are constituents properly informed or provided with adequate communication on emergency evacuation planning?
- What effort is taken to label the hazardous materials in a lab for proper emergency response? If an incident occurred, could there be a delay in external emergency response while waiting for hazardous chemicals to be removed?

PROBLEM

A world-renowned cancer treatment and research center must meet new regulatory requirements without imposing an additional burden on its research community.

SOLUTION

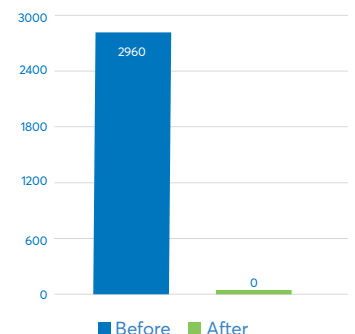
The center engaged Avantor Services to design, implement, and resource a centralized, technology-driven reporting system.

RESULTS

The center has accelerated delivery of accurate reporting data from several days to hours, eliminated the burden of hazardous materials reporting for laboratories, and provided instantaneous access to hazardous material information for sharing with regulatory agencies.

Annual Hours Spent Managing Hazardous Materials Data

Avantor Services implemented a system that reduced time spent managing hazardous materials data from 2,960 hours per year to zero hours per year.



- Is the relocation of labs being delayed while calculating permissible threshold quantity limits? How are chemical loads determined before relocating a lab?

SOLUTION

Avantor Services Business Process Consultant worked with the center's research administration, materials management, and environmental health & safety teams to understand current processes, requirements, and future goals. The consultant analyzed this information and designed a best-fit solution that could be integrated into the center's existing workflow or outsourced.

RESULT

A highly effective program was outsourced through a competitive bid process. Following implementation, the program:

- Returned nearly 3,000 hours per year to scientific research
- Documented accurate inventory of legacy hazardous materials, avoiding the loss of over 7,500 hours of research time
- Made real-time, electronic, accessible hazardous material information and data available instantaneously for regulatory reporting, inventory control, space planning, safety, and emergency communication. Previously, this information took weeks to obtain.



Are your scientific resources being wasted on non-research activities?

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