



## Consultancy

### About the customer

Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology (CCO) is a specialist cancer centre delivering treatment for patients through radiotherapy and chemotherapy services. They have state of the art imaging services to detect and plan treatment together with supportive care from nursing and allied health professionals to address the palliative aspects of care and needs of family supporters.

### About the project

Wirral NHS Trust selected Savant to carry out a detailed audit of CCO's bespoke Oracle based Patient Administration System (PAS). The existing system was 9 years old, and was due to be replaced in the following year. However, because of its bespoke nature it had not been subject to regular upgrades and maintenance and there was growing concern that the database server would fail before the data could be migrated to the new system.

Savant reviewed all aspects of the PAS, together with investigating the peripheral systems that fed from the PAS' database. The audit report detailed remedial work required to ensure the continued running of the system. The audit also identified Oracle PL/SQL and DBA training requirements that Savant was pleased to meet.

Savant put in place safeguards for the existing system, including:

- Changing the default passwords
- Deleting obsolete users
- Defragmenting tablespaces
- Improving index performance by rebuilding
- Supplying a DBA task list
- Developing scripts to carry out checks for disk space

As a follow up to the safeguarding the existing system Savant were involved with further tasks:

- A simple Microsoft Access application was built to hold information relating to the locations of X-ray images; this was required for archive purposes
- A snapshot of data was extracted from the old Oracle system into the Access database so it would still be available once the new system was implemented.

CCO use Crystal reports to generate their statistical reports, Savant worked with CCO's staff to understand the various sources of data and how to write good efficient queries to extract the data out of these sources. This was done via workshops and one to one working.

*"The work undertaken in 2002 by Savant at Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology NHS Foundation Trust was personal, highly skilled and relevant to the aims of the project. A clear understanding of both how the Trust functioned and the application of technical skills was a key success to working with Savant. This was reflected well in the advice and support provided."*

**Catherine McMullen**  
**Information Manager and**  
**Deputy Head of the Information Division**  
**of the Wirral Health Informatics Service**

Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology   
NHS Foundation Trust