

Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust

Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust is one of Europe's leading children's hospitals. The new £237m Alder Hey was officially opened by the Queen and Prince Philip in June 2016 and will care for over 270,000 children and families every year.

The Trust's innovative Orthotics Department recently installed several of Algeos machines including the aortha Salford Orthotic Grinding Machine in their workshop. Here, the Trust's Consultant Orthotist Ian Spencer shares with us how the department has evolved over the past six months.

How we used to do things

"The workshop used to be relatively dusty as we used lots of hand tools and had an old finishing machine, the process was a manual affair. We also didn't manufacture so much as we didn't have the resources to offer this service. There was no continuity of the service when contracted out and patients would have to wait weeks for their orthotics to be made or fixed. During this time our department had a deficit and we were just getting by."



The Salford Grinder in the Orthotics Workshop at Alder Hey Children's Hospital

Forward Thinking

The NHS team at Alder Hey decided the way forward was to invest in the delivery of an innovative orthotic service. They asked Ian Spencer to head up the department and to deliver a service to be proud of.

Ian looked at several machines that would enable him to bring manufacturing in-house. The aortha Salford Grinding Machine was one Ian wanted to install and he set about obtaining one.

Why choose the aortha Salford?

The aortha Salford sanding and grinding machine has been uniquely designed for the manufacture of foot orthotics and insole adaptations. With its user friendly features and ergonomic design functionalities, it is also equipped with a powerful internal dust extraction unit which removes waste instantly with minimal noise output.

The machine has a good work height station and an overhead LED light for optimal comfort. It's very easy to interchange consumables and the filter bag shaker allows the filter bag to be used to its maximum capacity.

Benefits

Ian says: "We want to create a model of orthotics excellence here at Alder Hey with the latest manufacturing facilities, machinery and the best people. "The aortha Salford Orthotic Grinding machine is a vital new piece of equipment for us.

"The workshop is a busy place and we want to keep dust to an absolute minimum, particularly as we regularly move between the workshop and the consultation rooms whilst seeing patients. "We've been delighted with the grinding machine. It's so quiet, clean and much neater than what we have been used to. The dust extraction is fantastic. No longer are we having to work with dust all over the place.



"The mounted overhead LED light is also excellent for clearly seeing what we are doing and we've found the machine produces faster work with a better finish. We are also able to use it for quite a few different elements of our work. Before, that would have meant moving to two or three other pieces of machinery to get the same job done."



Return on Investment

The investment in staff and equipment has enabled Ian and his team to become a fully functioning, innovative, orthotic department. They have grown from a department with a deficit to one with a turnover to be proud of. Much of this income is being re-invested to ensure continued growth and to provide a service to patients that is world class. The greatest benefit though has to be that of patient delivery. Now the team at Alder Hey can make their patients orthotics or fix them whilst they wait providing a safe patient journey.