

Use Case - FlashBoT for Hospital Lab Transport



[OSF St. Anthony's Health Center](#), part of the OSF Health-Care system, is a mission-based 49-bed hospital in Alton, IL outside of St. Louis. Unlike some newer hospital facilities, the building has never had a pneumatic tube system to efficiently transport laboratory specimens, and retrofitting one in would have been cost-prohibitive.

That meant OSF staff were spending a lot of time hand-carrying specimens from locations around the hospital to the lab in order to get patient results quickly. In particular, the emergency department staff had concerns about running specimens upstairs to the lab and leaving their patients in the emergency department.

A time- and labor-saving solution was needed, and Pringle Robotics had the perfect one! "Dwight" the FlashBoT was installed and integrated with the hospital's elevator system to enable the robot to autonomously fetch patient specimens and transport them to the lab. The [FlashBoT](#) is an autonomous delivery robot that can only be opened using a passcode, ensuring that contents stay secure during transport.

At St. Anthony's, in addition to making lab deliveries, Dwight also greets visitors, operates the elevators, and navigates the health center's hallways autonomously. The robot has become so popular among his coworkers, patients and visitors that he is now a staple of OSF St. Anthony's social media and has been featured in St. Louis-area newspapers and TV news broadcasts.



Dwight has also proven to be extremely reliable and efficient. According to the hospital, between May 15 - December 31, 2024, Dwight the robot:

- Completed 11,508 round trips between the Emergency Department and the Lab
- Traveled a distance equal to more than 558 miles
- Surpassed a total run time of 716 hours
- Freed up Emergency Department Mission Partners to provide continuous bedside care to patients instead of transporting samples to the lab

Speaking to the [Illinois Business Journal](#), Jerry Rumph, president of OSF St. Anthony's, had this to say about the FlashBoT:

"Introducing Dwight the robot is an example of finding a creative application to utilize technology that's enhancing patient care. Dwight the robot now carries out a task that was previously handled by one of our Emergency Department Mission Partners, and in turn, that Mission Partner now has more time to address direct patient care needs by being able to stay within the confines of the Emergency Department."

Sarah Braundmeier, manager of laboratory services, discussed the impact of Pringle Robotics' ongoing client support in an interview with [HealthLeaders](#):

"I have an app on my phone where I can reach out to them at any time to get him fixed. It's having that constant communication with them to help us out so that it's not just solely our responsibility to try to work through any issues that we might have."

Read more about Pringle Robotics' work with OSF St. Anthony's to deploy this automated solution for hospital efficiency and enhanced patient care:

[Peoria Telegraph](#)
[Illinois Business Journal](#)
[HealthLeaders](#)
[KMOV-TV](#)

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