

“ It used to be that tracking inventory and confirming equipment location data were time-consuming processes that hampered productivity and slowed billing. With GPS TimeTrack™, we no longer have these problems. In just a few months we’ve streamlined data collection and improved warehouse and delivery staff accountability. GPS TimeTrack has taken the guesswork out of inventory management.”

— Eric Messerschmidt, Operations Manager

## PRN Medical Services



### At-A-Glance

- ▶ Reduced inventory management time from dozens of hours to minutes.
- ▶ Improved warehouse and delivery staff accountability.
- ▶ Reduced fuel costs.
- ▶ Eliminated dozens of hours spent tracking lost or misplaced equipment.

### Background

PRN Medical, a home respiratory and DME equipment supplier, provides wheelchairs, patient lifts and portable oxygen machines to patient homes throughout Arizona. PRN office and field staff are responsible for tracking equipment from the company’s warehouse to and from patient homes. Given the very high cost of the merchandise, it is critical that equipment inventory and location data be accurate and easily accessible.

### Situation

PRN warehouse staff signs-out equipment via paper logs to drivers each morning. Delivery personnel records equipment serial numbers on paper logs when merchandise is dropped off and picked up. If a serial number is recorded incorrectly resulting in lost or misplaced equipment, PRN staff might spend several hours tracking down the merchandise, which can delay PRN’s billing process and significantly hinder productivity. To overcome these challenges, PRN sought an automated solution that would augment the paper-based inventory management process.

### Solution

To improve inventory management, 12 PRN warehouse and delivery staff now use GPS TimeTrack software loaded on their cell phones. Using a barcode scanner attached to the phones, warehouse personnel scans equipment when it is loaded into a truck, thereby assigning it to a particular driver. When a driver arrives at a patient’s home, he types the patient name/number into the GPS TimeTrack application, as well as a note regarding the purpose of his visit (drop off or pick up, for instance), and re-scans the merchandise.

He might also scan a piece of equipment that is being picked up. GPS TimeTrack captures the item’s serial number, its location, and the date and time it was loaded, delivered or picked up. This data is available to PRN office staff in real-time via web-based maps and reports.

PRN also is using GPS TimeTrack to monitor how fast its trucks are traveling. If a driver is exceeding a pre-set limit, PRN’s operations manager receives an email alert. This helps to improve PRN’s reputation and safe-driving practices, while reducing fuel costs.

### Results

Since November 2007, PRN has quickly located at least 60 pieces of equipment that were previously thought to be lost, thanks to improved equipment tracking with GPS TimeTrack. Whereas it used to take dozens of man hours to track and locate misplaced inventory, GPS TimeTrack gets the job done in a matter of minutes. And by monitoring vehicle travel speeds, PRN has reduced fuel costs, which increase by almost 2% for each mile per hour a vehicle travels above 50 mph.