

STORAGE SOLVED

SITUATION: When the Nebraska Heart Institute, a group of physicians who have been practicing in the city of Lincoln for over 25 years, recently built their own 92,000-square-foot Heart Hospital, it was important for everything in it to be in line with their patient-focused philosophy and up to par with their state-of-the-art technologies. Even the materials storage areas had to look as good as they functioned efficiently.

FOCUSING ON PATIENTS

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS PLACE MATERIALS STORAGE AT THE POINT-OF-NEED™ IN NEW NEBRASKA HEART HOSPITAL

The building process was well underway when Jackie R. Mendoza, RN, joined the organization as Cath Lab Team Leader. As a materials management professional, storage was a major concern to her, so she was quick to notice that it was unaccounted for in the building plan. She needed to quickly pull together a storage plan that would be both efficient and affordable. Mendoza turned to Midwest Storage Solutions, Inc., a member of the nationwide Spacesaver Group. "We told them what we needed, and they drew it up," Mendoza said.



STORAGE SOLUTION

An innovative solution by Spacesaver and Midwest Storage Solutions, Inc. allows supplies to be stored at the Point-of-Need™ within the Cardiac Catheterization Lab Procedure Room.

For example, when she requested pullout racks for catheter storage, Midwest Storage Solutions not only helped design the special pullout storage system, but also customized the shelving unit so it could be located at the point of need within the Cardiac Catheterization Lab Procedure Room to increase the efficiency and productivity of the Cath Lab Department. "Catheters come in long skinny packages, so hanging was a must," said Mendoza.



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Preventing dust and other contaminants from settling on shelves and supplies was key with the Procedure Room shelving. Customized glass doors keep supplies dust-free, while facilitating quick visual location of catheters, coronary stents, dressings and other supplies. "We went back and forth on the design," said Mendoza, "even down to the door handles, which also had to be kept dust-free."

In both the OR Sterile Supply and the Catheter Lab Central Storage areas, powered high-density mobile storage was selected for its cutting-edge technology and ease of use.

Spacesaver was able to meet a critical need for adjustable shelving. "Supply vendors change the size of their boxes on a whim," said Mendoza. "It's important that our staff can easily adjust shelving heights to the boxes as necessary. We also standardized our bins and dividers so we can interchange them throughout the hospital."



The Eclipse Powered System™ effectively doubles the capacity of the storage area and provides quick, safe access to items. The ability to have immediate access at the push of a button speeds retrieval time.

“Spacesaver was very, very accommodating,” said Mendoza. “What I liked most was their willingness to think outside the box. I told them what materials we needed to store and where, and they designed it, customized to our needs.”

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Other Spacesaver storage solutions at Nebraska Heart Hospital included stationary shelving for patient supplies in the nursing units, medical supplies in Central Supply and also for linen storage. Bins are bar-coded, making it easy to track inventory with a bar-code reader. Every storage solution is as aesthetically pleasing as it is efficient.

NEBRASKA HEART HOSPITAL’S KEY STORAGE SYSTEMS

Storage location	Existing/alternative storage system	Timed activity/ space used	New storage system	Timed activity/ space used	Efficiencies/ space gained
Cardiac catheterization lab procedure room	Automated dispensing and inventory management system (Existing system)	3-5 minutes on avg. to locate and retrieve supplies	Pullout racks and shelving with customized glass doors	1-2 minutes on avg. to locate and retrieve supplies	2-3 minutes on avg. saved to locate and retrieve supplies, representing a 100% or higher increase in efficiencies
New OR sterile supply area	Wire-rack shelving (Alternative system)	460 sq. feet of space used	Eclipse Powered System™ with adjustable shelves	288 sq. feet of space used	172 sq. feet saved; space savings of approximately 38%
New catheterization lab central storage area	Static shelving (Alternative system)	410 sq. feet of space used	Eclipse Powered System™ with adjustable shelves	272 sq. feet of space used	138 sq. feet saved; space savings of approximately 34%



Nebraska Heart Hospital



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