



Storage

FOR HEALTHCARE

FOREMOST ACADEMIC MEDICAL CENTER SAVES SPACE AND CUTS STERILE SUPPLY INVENTORY COSTS

When the Medical College of Pennsylvania, a member of the Tenet group purchasing organization, remodeled its operating room (OR) suite, it incorporated a Spacesaver mobile system in the sterile supply room to free up space for operating room expansions.

The remodel project had to satisfy several essential improvements. There was to be more room given to a large MRI area, which is in the OR. Also, the OR needed space freed up for larger procedure rooms that could accommodate new technology equipment for neuro-surgery procedures.

“Without the mobile system, we would never have been able to have fit everything in the OR area and still achieve our other remodel goals.”

— Lisa Czyzewski, operating room director

The designer worked with the OR staff to redesign the area and, in the process, made changes to the sterile supplies and sterile processing areas to make them more prolific and space efficient.

Previously, sterile processing was done in the OR suite and sterile supplies were scattered throughout the procedure rooms, in the sterile processing room and on two other floors. As part of the remodel, sterile processing was moved to a different floor, which freed up space for an additional procedure room. All of the sterile supplies were centralized into one storeroom in the OR corridor. The architectural firm on the project recommended the use of a high-density storage system to minimize the use of valuable sterile space needed for storage.

A Spacesaver mechanical assist mobile system, which was purchased under the Tenet contract, was designed into a small room. Located in a central location in the OR suite, supplies are now conveniently located close to where they are needed.



A Spacesaver mechanical assist system reduced storage space requirements in OR suite.

Solved



Sterile supply inventory is centralized and easy to find.

"Without the mobile system, we would never have been able to have fit everything in the OR area and still achieve our other remodel goals," stated Lisa Czyzewski, OR director.

Czyzewski also explained that by consolidating the sterile supply inventory, she's been able to reduce the amount of sterile supply inventory and meet the hospital's operational streamlining goals. "It was difficult to maintain a cost-effective level of supply inventory when we had supplies scattered," she said. "With everything in one place, we have been able to cut inventory."

The changes have also made it easier for the sterile processing technicians to do their jobs and to get case carts assembled. They complete their sterile processing of instruments the night before a procedure and bring it into the OR area on a case cart where they add their sterile supplies. Everything is organized and easy to find and there is no more searching in multiple locations for critical items needed.

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"Before we had to go to the 9th floor, 1st floor, 3rd floor and then to multiple rooms to find the items we needed," explained Lamont Witters, sterile processing technician. "Now we are faster and more accurate."

Also, in the event that a supply is urgently needed during a procedure, medical staff personnel waste no time in putting their hands on the item needed.

"We love the Spacesaver system," Czyzewski said. "I would recommend it to other operating room staffs that need to save space."



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