



Storage

FOR HEALTHCARE

MOBILE STORAGE INCREASES SPACE EFFICIENCY AT RENOWNED CLINIC COMPLEX IN MIDWEST

The Cleveland Clinic, home to one of the nation's best hospitals, including the nation's number one heart center (according to *U.S. News & World Report*) recently improved space efficiency and saved over 7,000 square feet in critical storage areas in four separate buildings simply by replacing stationary storage equipment with high-density mobile systems. The projects were executed through the Clinic's agreement with a Group Purchasing Organization (GPO) and its sole-source provider, Spacesaver Corporation.

Twelve compact mobile systems were installed in the Cleveland Clinic's new JJ Building, three of which are in the Clinical Research Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery Center. High-density mobile storage was a new concept for the Center when planning began for a move to new space. Whereas previously, medical records and research projects were stored in filing cabinets and stacks in researcher's cubicles, all are now centralized, along with supplies and equipment, in mobile systems designed to accommodate ten years of growth.

"Even with the trend towards digitalization, there will still be storage needs. That's why having reconfigurable systems is so important."

— Greg Ramm, Central Business Group

"Reconfiguration and centralization were key issues," said Greg Ramm with Spacesaver's Area Contractor, Central Business Group. "Even with the trend towards digitalization, there will still be storage needs. That's why having reconfigurable systems is so important."

Storage was also upgraded during a recent renovation of Cleveland Clinic's Beachwood Family Health Center, which includes medical records, plus the radiology film and breast film libraries. Management decided early in the planning phase to convert over-stuffed stationary shelving to high-density mobile storage with a plan for growth. The goal was to consolidate three filing systems into one centralized location with one standardized tracking process.

The medical records section, with 300 to 400 pulls per week and over 2,940 linear feet of storage, has already added one carriage since moving in. Up to seven more can be added as needs increase. Half the carriages are currently programmed stationary, but will be mobilized as new carriages are introduced down the line.



High-density mobile storage systems improved space efficiency and saved over 7,000 square feet in four buildings throughout the Clinic complex.

Solved



The Cleveland Clinic Accounts Payable, Patient Financial Services and Payroll/Finance departments, among others, were also recently renovated. With several departments merging and five to six different storage and tracking systems in use, the construction management team had high-density mobile storage in mind from the beginning.

The solution was to centralize departmental storage by converting to compact mobile systems with a single software tracking system. Ramm began by surveying each department to identify its specific needs. Based on results, a high-density mobile system was designed for each. Powered systems, chosen for their operational benefits and safety features, were configured with different heights and depths of shelves to accommodate the variety of items stored. All incorporate the same tracking software, and the Payroll/Finance system locks down to protect confidentiality. When the departments eventually go digital, paper records will still be kept for a year, cash documents for seven years and Medicare forms for ten.

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The Cleveland Clinic Independence Family Health Center had the advantage of planning for storage in the pre-construction phase when built a few years ago. The key challenge was optimizing the space allocated for storage of active medical records and x-rays. Powered mobile storage was the answer.

"The Cleveland Clinic projects have been a team effort between the Cleveland Clinic Construction Management and Materials Management departments, contract interior designers and architects, general contractors, Cleveland Clinic and Central Business Group/Spacesaver," said Ramm. "Spacesaver was chosen based on breadth of product line, GPO buying agreement, and 25 years of successful systems applications and experiences with Central Business Group/Spacesaver. The GPO contract allows Spacesaver to be both consultant and resource in the planning process, while it provides the Cleveland Clinic the best balance of delivered price and quality."



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Top and center, compact mobile storage meets consolidation and tracking goals, while carriages currently programmed stationary can be mobilized to accommodate growth. Bottom, powered mobile systems planned during pre-construction phase optimize space for medical records and x-rays.