

STORAGE SOLVED

SITUATION: “Advances in technology are not something that you can prepare yourself for,” explained Kate Shandley, surgical services supply coordinator.

“New medical equipment is often huge and takes up a lot of space in the procedure rooms. In an effort to provide safe movement of staff and equipment within the rooms and prevent cross contamination of sterile supplies, our surgical supplies are now kept outside the room in the central core.” .

SURGICAL SUPPLY STORAGE

MOBILE SYSTEMS PROVIDE SURGICAL SUPPLY STORAGE IN STATE-OF-THE-ART SURGERY CENTER

Kennestone Hospital in Marietta, Georgia recently added a new self-contained wing to accommodate an expanded and state-of-the-art Surgical Services department. In an effort to provide patients with state-of-the-art procedure rooms that accommodate new, high-tech medical equipment, they built larger rooms and removed permanent supply storage from the rooms. They incorporated two Spacesaver mechanical assist mobile systems in the central core to house all of the surgical supplies and instruments and facilitate the new OR design goals.



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The new Surgical Services department – which incorporates pre-op, post-op and surgery for Neuro, Plastics, Orthopedic, Vascular, General lap, ENT and eyes – was designed with efficiency and ergonomics in mind. The central supply core is located in the middle of the wing with two service corridors on either side of it. Nurses and surgical staff can enter the supply core from either side to access critical supplies before or during a procedure.

A Spacesaver mobile system in the surgical supply core of the Surgical Services department provides centralized storage of critical supplies.

Kennestone uses a closed case-cart system for all of its procedures. Each night, case carts are initiated in the central processing area, on the lower level, then brought up elevators directly to the central core, where they are completed and staged for the next day. Case carts are then taken by staff to the appropriate room at the assigned time of surgery.



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"There is always limited space when you are designing an OR," Shandley stated. "The mobile systems, we felt, would get us more surgical supplies in the core while utilizing the least amount of space, in the least amount of spread."

Spacesaver worked with Shandley to design the most optimum storage solution to meet the needs of the department. A unique mobile system was designed with stainless steel wire racks, which helps minimize dust collection and maximize cleanliness in the sterile supply area. Also, the Spacesaver system incorporates completely clear Plexiglas end panels to facilitate quick visual locating.

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Stainless steel racks and clear Plexiglas end panels accommodate the special needs in the OR.

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"When surgical staff are loading case carts or need to access something quickly during a procedure, they need to be able to locate items as quickly as possible," said Shandley. "The clear panels help us to have full visual access to materials and facilitate quick retrievals."

OR construction costs are higher than ever and making the most efficient use of that space is critical. "I have believed in mobile storage systems for the last 10 years of my career," she said. "I know how functional they are and how much space they save. They are an excellent storage solution for any OR."

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