

Metro Provides Storage and Productivity Solutions for Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center

Starsys™ carts enhance storage and equipment handling capabilities at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center

In 1996 Hartford Connecticut's, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center completed the most ambitious construction project in its history, a 10-story Patient Care Tower, which provides a variety of inpatient and outpatient services. The hospital currently is licensed for 617 beds. During the recent renovation project, numerous departments required solutions to their storage and equipment handling issues.

Clinical Engineering Department

The initial concern came about when equipping rooms with monitors in Saint Francis' new Intermediate Care Unit. "We wanted to place the monitors on carts and transport them to the patient rather than permanently mount the monitors to the walls," notes Robert Zbuska, System Manager for Clinical Engineering. "This way, if the patient's status changed, we could bring the monitor directly to the patient."

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Robert Zbuska, System Manager for Clinical Engineering, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center



provides an excellent and safe platform for storage and use," declares Zbuska. **Durability for the clinical environment also was addressed.** Starsys' easy-to-clean polymer material matched the monitors very nicely. "Many of the competitive carts we inspected are constructed of metal which is then painted. These carts can then chip and present cleanability issues," contends Zbuska. **A small footprint was another important requirement** cited because if several nurses are in the room, space can become tight.

"When deciding on the specifications of the Starsys cart, Metro Healthcare Representative Karin Sebolt's knowledge and expertise played a major role in advising us on the configuration," notes Zbuska. **The flexibility of the cart was key in**

"We required a cart with numerous features," states Zbuska. "Balance was a major consideration. Since the value of the equipment stored on the cart exceeds \$15K, the stability issue was very important." Zbuska decided that Metro's Starsys cart would be the ideal solution. "When the monitor is bolted to the top of the Starsys cart, it is very stable and

attracting us to Starsys. As always, in the healthcare business, cost was an important consideration and Karin was able to provide a cart that fell within our budget based on our requirements, which was an added benefit. The decision to purchase the Starsys carts has helped the nursing staff in many ways - most importantly they now have the supplies they need for a patient readily accessible in one compact area."

Labor & Delivery

Located on the fourth floor of Saint Francis are 14 brand new labor, delivery and recovery rooms. "When we moved to this new area we needed a cart that blended in with the design elements of these rooms and provided an appropriate storage area for our supplies," states Jan Kiss, M.A.M.S.N., Nurse Manager of Women's Perinatal Services. "Starsys was a perfect match aesthetically for the rooms. The ability to customize the cart for our specific needs was a great advantage."

Starsys carts are very easy to organize due to the compartments and dividers. The full extension drawers allow all of the supplies to be easily accessed. "The unique swing-out side storage units provide nurses additional workspace when needed," adds Kiss. "The tilt-out bins offer another area to store larger bulky objects that need to be quickly retrieved."

The optional handle also proved to be very beneficial. In addition to providing optimal maneuverability, it also serves as a towel and washcloth rack.



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As one of the largest hospitals in Connecticut, Hartford's Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center has been an anchor institution in North Central Connecticut since its founding in 1879. In 1996, Saint Francis completed the most ambitious construction project in its history, a 10-story Patient Care Tower, which provides a variety of inpatient and outpatient services. The hospital currently is licensed for 617 beds. During the recent renovation project, along with Ambulatory Surgery, the Starsys product line also provided the required storage and equipment handling solutions for both Clinical Engineering, and Labor and Delivery.

Ambulatory Surgery

"During the recent move, we lost cabinet space and needed to devise a new system for storing items. After reviewing all of the features of Starsys we worked with Karin to design carts to store medications and carts to hold supplies," states Sharon Ormstedt, R.N., C.A.P.A., Nurse Manager, Ambulatory Surgery.

"The Starsys OR Medication carts save us a lot of time when preparing for cases," maintains Ormstedt. "The carts are

easy to restock and keep a running inventory."

Numerous supplies are stored in the carts including various medications such as: ointments, topical anesthetics, antibiotics, dyes for visualization, IV supplies, medication cups, Band-Aids, tape, syringes and alcohol preps. All supplies are gathered the night before for cases and are ready and available so

that during the day while cases are being performed, nurses do not waste time locating items. **"The accessibility to the supplies, and the fact that these supplies are all neatly arranged and organized, enable any staff member to feel comfortable using or stocking the cart,"** notes Ormstedt.

"We also utilize tall single wide Starsys carts with doors and full extension shelving. **The full extension shelving allows much easier access to supplies.** Nurses find that they do not have to move supplies around to gain access to a



particular item," declares Wendy MacDonald, R.N. **"This feature saves a lot of time and keeps the cart very neat and orderly.** We also periodically relocate the tall carts through the OR halls. They are easy to move and maneuver with the handle."

"Although we reviewed other carts, Starsys' features were more fitting to our needs," adds MacDonald. **"Karin designed the carts for us based on our requirements. Having a cart that was totally efficient was most important.** The mobility issue was also important as the intent was to periodically move the cart around a room and throughout the hallway. On the OR Medication carts, the top worksurface is used for writing. **The high profile carts contain a large amount of supplies but do not take up a lot of space.** These units need to be closed to assure items are kept sterile, so the option to add doors was very important to us," states MacDonald.

"Karin provided great support," contends Ormstedt. "Since we were in the process of relocating the department and concentrating on so many other issues it was a big advantage for her to evaluate and determine our needs and make suggestions that allowed us to make the right decision for what was needed."



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Nurse Manager, Ambulatory Surgery,
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