

SOUTH NASSAU STANDARDIZES WITH STARSYS™ AND MORE

In the early spring of '98, InterMetro received a call from South Nassau Communities Hospital on Long Island. The 429-bed, acute care hospital needed new shelving units for an operating room renovation project. While providing the facility with an elevation drawing of the requested Super Erecta® unit, Metro also included literature of the Starsys™ line. Soon the hospital decided on the purchase of Starsys™ WorkCenter units.

According to Mary Weiner, Director of the OR at South Nassau, this portion of the facility was in dire need of renovations; it was in disrepair. "In the cores, the drawers were broken, and it wasn't as efficient as it needed to be," Weiner said.

The surgical cores are where the washing, decontamination and rewrapping of instruments take place. In this case, there wasn't enough storage space. "What we wanted to do was reorganize the core so that the supplies the assistants need to do their job were easily accessible," Weiner said. She added that the core also serves as a sub-sterile, therefore holding sterile supplies for the nurses as well. **The needs were met with Starsys™** since now they were able to organize and label everything to make it easily accessible to everyone.

The hospital has seen a lot of improvements with the addition of the Starsys™ units. Now it is easier for assistants in the core to complete their trays since they have workstations for all their sterile wraps and tapes. "We put the instrumentation in there for them, so it saves them time from walking out of the cores into the office to get back their instruments, Weiner noted. "Also, it saves the OR nurses time not having to scrounge around to find things; everything is well labeled," she added.

Standardization with the new equipment also presented a significant time savings for the cores. The two cores are now mirror images of one another. "Each core services six OR's. If you are working on one core one day and the other core the next day everything's in the same place," Weiner said. According to Weiner, it now takes about 5 or 10 minutes less to do each tray, and about 40 trays are done each day. Quite a significant amount of time saved!

The features of Starsys™ have helped the hospital tremendously. The full extension drawers provide storage for instruments, IV and irrigation fluids and make it easy to rotate stock; removable totes are used for labels; and the drawers can be locked if need be. Prior to the renovations, the complete OR consisted of wooden and steel



shelving with glass cabinets and pegboards with pins in them. "It was very hard to organize; the doors don't close after awhile, and the glass falls out – all those good things that happen after 20 years," Weiner noted.

Starsys™ was not the only product used in the OR renovations at South Nassau.



Top Track was also a big hit. Both Metromax Q Top Track™ and Super Erecta Top Track™ were used in the sterile work, supply, and equipment rooms. The hospital's going through a lot of renovations. According to Weiner, **since standardizing in the OR has made things so much easier to find, she has had people coming up from the different units to look at her system.** "They'll come up, look and select what they need in Patient Dialysis, Labor & Deliver, Respiratory Therapy, and Central Sterile, said

Weiner. "Because of the success with this project and how receptive Metro was, they've just kind of been incorporated into the Design and Development Program," she added.

Since the renovation, plans are being finalized to renovate Central Sterile involving Super Adjustable and Starsys, and 17 case carts were purchased for the OR. Metro's

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future with South Nassau not only involves the hospital facility itself but also with outside affiliated family practice and rehabilitation facilities. Installation is in process at these locations of six Starsys units for their storage areas and med/utility rooms.

Weiner and the staff at the hospital couldn't be more pleased with the success of the renovations and the relationship that has been built with Metro. "From the beginning, when they came in and did the walk-through with us, drew floor plans and listened to what we needed – it was painless," said Weiner. "I've been through many OR renovations which have been very painful, but this one was not. It went extremely well," she added. The future looks bright for both Metro and South Nassau.

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