

# “Where’s the Thing”?

## Making it Fit - Innovation In Our Supply Chain

### The Problem

We always need more space for supplies when dealing with small areas like secondary med rooms or very small clean utility rooms.

### Aim/Goal

The goal is to find the right supply chain solutions as we work through spatial constraints in the variety of clean supply and medical supply rooms here at BIDMC. Our goal is to individualize and optimize supply storage while making it easy for the staff to work within the space as they perform their daily roles.

### The Team

Ryan Erskine, Project Manager (Materials)  
Brian Bertrand, Supervisor (Materials)  
David Mangan, Pharmacy Supervisor (Pharmacy)  
Deb McGrath, Operations Administrator

### The Interventions

Through our Rapid Improvement Events (RIE) we look for ways to improve upon the foundation of established processes we have already put in place here at BIDMC.

- With the opening of a second med room on West Campus CC6 we were forced to look at alternative options for supply storage.
- Materials Management staff together with key members from Facilities, Nursing, and Pharmacy planned for space solutions for the limited space in the second med room.
- Working with the staff we came to an agreement on what items would be needed in the second med room on the unit.
- Unlike a typical supply room we also needed to incorporate a work surface for med preparation which would take away from space we could use to house supplies.
- After discussions with the nursing staff and pharmacy we decided to use a cart with cantilevered shelves. This would serve the function of allowing supplies above the work area for supply storage.
- Finally we decided a wall mounted bin system would also serve well for the space. This would give the functionality of a supply cart for additional storage while maintaining the openness needed to work within the space.

### The Results/Progress to Date

As of today we have mounted not one but two wall mounted systems in this med room. The wall mounted bins are a success and give not only functionality but also versatility to the space.



### Lessons Learned

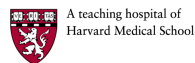
- Communication is a key factor when working on a project such as this. Open communication between all members of the team involved with the opening of the room was integral in success.
- We learned that our new idea works great and will serve as a solution to many supply issues we currently face not only in small med rooms but other areas we serve in the hospital.
- We learned that sometimes you have to take a chance and sometimes good ideas turn into great solutions.

### Next Steps/What Should Happen Next

- We plan to roll this process out in future med rooms where we are constrained by space and mobility within the work space
- We will continue to keep an open communication with the staff and the unit to ensure they are happy with their supply needs.
- Applying our lessons learned from this events solution we identified that the second med room on Farr 9 was also an ideal candidate for the wall mounted bins. We are in the process of getting these added on their unit.
- We will continue to look for better and more efficient supply solutions at BIDMC.



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