

5S for PACS Supply Closets and Storage Areas

The Problem

PACS workstations are used throughout the hospital to view various types of Radiology images. Servicing these machines is important to ensure images can be read and interpreted in a timely manner.

Over the years, our PACS storage and work areas on both campuses have become cluttered with outdated equipment and supplies. In addition, there are many items that belong to other departments that have been left behind. This clutter has caused inefficiencies by hunting and fetching for items in non-standard locations.

Aim/Goal

Utilize the LEAN 5S's to organize our 2 storage closets on East and West Campus and the PACS office on the East to improve efficiency with servicing new PACS workstations in Radiology.

The Team

- Scott Campbell, Radiology Informatics Specialist
- Joe Keegan, Radiology PACS Technician
- Jim Brophy, Manager, Radiology PACS/Informatics
- Allen Reedy, Radiology Business Director (LEAN resource)

The Interventions

- Educated project members on LEAN concepts and tools for process improvement
- Used the LEAN 5S's to:
 - o Sort unneeded equipment and supplies with input from team members as well as other Radiology managers and service departments
 - o Set locations for needed equipment and supplies
 - o Scrub, shine and sweep the immediate work areas
 - o Standardize equipment and supply locations with associated labels
 - o Sustain goals by educating staff on the new locations of equipment and supplies and continually assessing the area and soliciting feedback from staff related to the changes

The Results/Progress to Date

Before LEAN



After LEAN



Lessons Learned

- In shared work space, it is important to reach consensus by all those with a vested interest to determine what items are necessary to keep and where they should be stored
- Using the 5S's in our supply and storage closets has greatly reduced the time it takes to service our PACS machines
- Open communication is essential to avoid unnecessary surprises (i.e. running out of supplies, redundant ordering)

Next Steps/What Should Happen Next

- Perform regular inventory checks
- Keep only PACS related supplies in the 3 work areas



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