

Corridor Storage

The Problem

Patient beds, stretchers, wheelchairs, various mobile equipment, even items to be discarded were being left in hallways and corridors throughout BIDMC. The problem was not unique to our institution and has plagued the healthcare industry specifically for years. Issues arose frequently around regulatory compliance and overall safety of patients, visitors, and staff of the Medical Center,

Aim/Goal

Our AIM was to establish “Authorized Equipment Holding” areas and identify the types of equipment allowed to remain there waiting for fast deployment when needed. We also sought to identify “Temporary Equipment Holding” areas where equipment in transit (i.e. broken but waiting to be relocated to repair areas, or specialty rental beds awaiting pick-up by external vendors) could remain short-term, less than a few hours.

The Team

- Don Boucher – Bed Repair Technician, Clinical Engineering
- Paul Anderson – Technology Coordinator, HIMDE
- Mark McKenna – Manager, Environmental Services
- Dan Bazinet – Director, Clinical Equipment & P/S
- Gary Schweon – Director, Environmental Health & Safety
- Dick Hatch – Manager, Clinical Engineering
- Rick Marini – Director, Maintenance Operations

The Interventions

- Clinical Equipment, Environmental Health & Safety, and Maintenance Operations Directors identified locations for both Authorized Equipment Storage and Temporary Equipment Holding areas.
- Signage was created and posted to alert staff to new space designations.
- Color-coded equipment status tags were designed, printed, and deployed to Storage and Holding areas as well as key clinical nursing

units. Red Tags signified “Broken” equipment, Green tags signified “good” equipment.

- Staff was educated about the program.
- Policy was created to address Corridor Storage and also provides a process for discarding unwanted items.
- Unwanted items are either stored long-term at off-site facility or discarded completely.

The Results/Progress to Date

Staff adopted tags and extended use to other equipment types as well. Corridors became less cluttered and usable equipment was more readily available from strategic locations. Equipment in transit remains shorter periods of time in Temporary Holding Areas and turn-around-time for repairs is improved; equipment is ready for redeployment sooner. Items to be discarded are reported to Facilities and remain on-location until removal can be scheduled. Fewer items ‘migrate’ to the lower basement hallways and corridors as a means of getting rid of things no longer wanted / needed.

Lessons Learned

- Implementation and adoption of organization wide Corridor Storage and Removal & Disposal Policy (EC-52) was successful.
- Removal & Disposal of unwanted items ensures only items of value are retained and stored off-site for future use/deployment. Items to be discarded are addressed conclusively.

Next Steps/What Should Happen Next:

Continuous policing of equipment / items in authorized areas should be maintained. Process for addressing removal & disposal of items should be reviewed periodically to ensure we are retaining only items of value. Routinely educate staff to reinforce regulatory compliance directives around corridor storage.

For More Information Contact

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