

# Eliminating Expired Supplies

## The Problem

This process improvement initiative was developed to address the issue of expired supplies being available for use in patient care settings.

BIDMC's PACE (*Partnership to Achieve Continuous Excellence*) Rounds and targeted surveys of existing processes across 70 care areas within the medical center noted only 15% had a formal system for checking expiration dates on supplies; whereas 42% of areas surveyed had no formalized system in place for checking expiration dates on products prior to usage; 43% of areas surveyed had partial systems that either did not use a formal process or did not include all areas where supplies were stored for use.

The occurrence and potential use of such supplies is a patient safety issue as well as a regulatory infraction based on standards set forth by the Joint Commission

## Aim/Goal

The goals for this project were to reduce occurrences of expired supplies to zero for all distribution and non-distribution stocked areas as well as to establish an infrastructure for maintaining an inventory/rotated stock process with accountability and checks system.

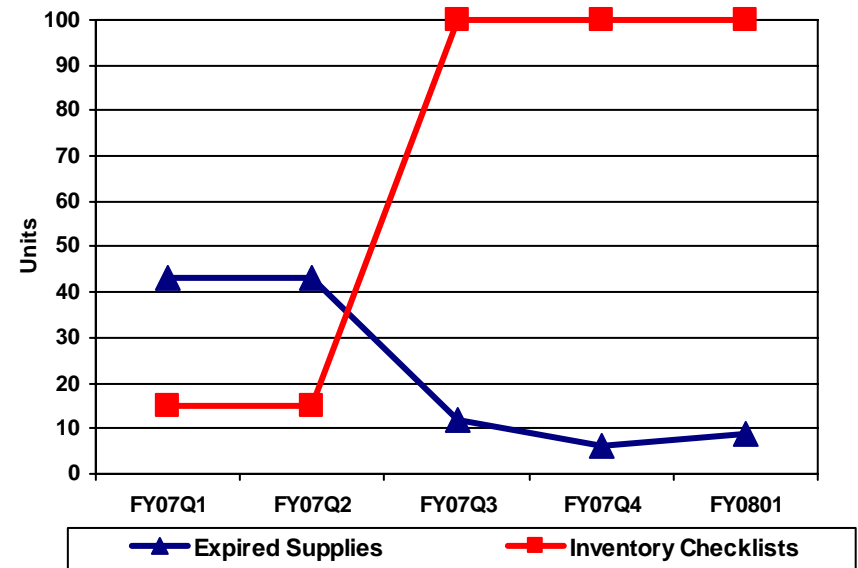
## The Team

- Health Care Quality Process Improvement
- Materials Management
- Patient Care Services
- Ambulatory Clinic Managers and Staff

## The Interventions

- Changed existing expired supplies policy to include requirement to develop unit / supply room specific checklist for all supplies expiration dates
- Facilitate development of unit / supply room checklists with local area managers
- Implement use of checklists in all areas
- PACE Team rounds monitor adherence to new process on a quarterly basis (to ensure 'holding the gains')

## The Results/Progress to Date

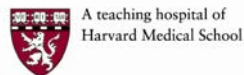


## Lessons Learned

Through the successful change of hospital policy concerning the management of expired supplies we were able to significantly reduce the number of expired supplies available for patient care. We were also able to develop a monthly system for ensuring that expired supplies are unavailable for patient care.



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