

CONSIDERATIONS TO ADDRESS SPACE AND STORAGE WOES WITH CENTRALIZATION



Surgical Instrument Centralization Expert

FIRST CASE

Bryan Stuart | National Director
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First Case Surgical Instrument Centralization Expert™:

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Many hospitals struggle with space and storage. Surgical instrument centralization can combat these challenges by freeing up valuable space in the OR, storage closets, and other areas. However, if you centralize your storage, you may consider evaluating how many instruments you need, which sterile sets to store, and where to stage soiled items for reprocessing. If the departments responsible for sterilization are downsized or repurposed, this can free up even more needed storage space.

Sizing of your sterile storage should consider multiple elements:

1. What needs to be stored? Consider all instrument trays, backup instruments, sterile peel packs, and other sterile supplies that will need to be stored.
2. How do you access it? Consider when you may need to case pick, use an as-needed basis, or respond to emergent needs.
3. How much needs to be stored? Consider all reprocessed instruments, a par of instrument trays, and sterile supplies at a multiday par level.

These elements can instruct how to set up a storage system with accurate space estimations to meet your facility's needs. By continuously measuring and anticipating future servicing, you can make space and storage plans that appropriately accommodate growth. While you might not have enough space initially to implement the forecast, this can prioritize planning for expansion that supports the long-term needs of your facility.

Another component of centralization is automated storage and retrieval systems. Many organizations use these in their facilities today, such as vertical lift modules and carousels, to help with their space and storage needs. Automated systems can work with a facility's existing infrastructure to allow for better inventory management, order accuracy, and reduce the need for valuable storage space.

With careful thought, planning, and the right technologies, you can enjoy better space and storage solutions.

Have more questions for this expert? Contact Bryan at bryan.stuart@aesculapusa.com

First Case Surgical Instrument Centralization Expert™ Biography:

BRYAN STUART

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Bryan Stuart, CCSVP, has over 30 years of experience in the medical field and 13 years of operational experience in an FDA regulated environment as a third party processor of surgical linens and instrumentation. From this, Bryan has developed keen insights into commercially managed reprocessing facilities. Bryan has also provided third party management of SPDs. He has extensive experience in hospital supply chain management and delivery of durable goods, custom procedure trays (CPT) and surgical supply single-pull products ranging from bulk, Just In Time (JIT), and off-site prepared Case Carts. For the last 8 years, Bryan has provided consulting services to hospitals to improve processes and instrument tray streamlining. His solutions are driven by hands-on set reviews and data driven solutions bringing the clinical and processing teams together for a mutually beneficial rationalization of instrument trays and process improvements.

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