

First Case Surgical Instrument Centralization Expert TM:

WHAT'S DRIVING THE ERA OF SURGICAL INSTRUMENT CENTRALIZATION?

Bryan Stuart | National Director, Sterile Supply Solutions

With many large academic facilities and health systems taking the plunge at surgical instrument centralization, the industry is clamoring to learn the motivations of these early adopters. Factors driving this interest and momentum may include:

- · Standardizing processes for improved quality of care and compliance
- · Combatting lack of space issues in reprocessing departments
- · Scaling to eliminate redundancy of effort and expense across multiple care sites

Let's take a closer look at each of these motivations:

- 1. The first sign of a shift to standardize processes was the increased consolidation of clinics and house trays from remote Sterile Processing Departments (SPD). With a centralization strategy, an organization can standardize processes, best practices, and instrumentation across all care sites for significant gains in efficiency, quality, and compliance.
- 2. Space issues are another chronic pain point we often hear from customers. Facilities must have appropriate space to house equipment for their specific case mix and reprocessing needs. Proper centralization of SPD services can help ensure adequate space and inventory to support fluctuating reprocessing demands.
- 3. Eliminating redundancy of staff, equipment, and inventory across multiple care sites can also result from centralization initiatives taking off. When each care site purchases their own equipment, an inefficient patchwork of devices, software, and data sets develop. This can be unmanageable to train, troubleshoot, and service across all sites. Additionally, each care site maintaining its own surgical inventory may lead to overstocking or stock-outs. Centralizing SPD services helps avoid these inefficiencies and provides economies of scale that can produce significant cost savings and better care.

These motivators help drive the dynamic centralization shift of reprocessing surgical instruments and equipment. Leading organizations believe it's the mark of high-performing, world-class institutions operating as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible for decades to come.

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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 offsite 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 bringing the data-driven solutions clinical processing teams together for a mutually beneficial rationalization of instrument trays and process improvements.

