

SPD SURVIVAL GUIDE: MISSING INSTRUMENTS



INVENTORY MANAGEMENT EXPERT

 BEYOND
CLEAN

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Beyond Clean Inventory Management Expert™:

SPD Survival Guide: Missing Instruments

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Exploring product availability by checking multiple vendors or suppliers can be a good practice — especially for critical items and surgical instruments. For many, that was an indelible lesson taught by the global pandemic.

The wait for needed items on backorder can seem interminable.

Communication helps to effectively manage backorders. You should be communicative with the OR from the beginning, letting them know that there may be an order delay. You also should provide regular updates on the status of their order(s), so they know when to expect delivery.

Here are preventative tips to help manage the realities of backorders:

- **Plan ahead:** Make sure you have accurate inventory records and forecast demand as accurately as possible.
- **Keep open communication:** Keep frequent communication with vendors to know the lead times and delivery dates so you can anticipate delays in advance.
- **Prioritize orders:** Determine which orders are most critical and rank them, ensuring that those items are ordered well in advance of due dates.
- **Consider safety stock levels:** Safety stock is extra inventory kept on hand to ensure continuity of supply during demand spikes or vendor delays.

Remember that inventory management in Sterile Processing is particularly challenging because disposable patient care supplies typically are managed by the materials management department, so unless there is excellent communication between the two departments, outages and delays in surgical cases may occur.

Have more questions? Contact Debra at: debra.burns@aesculapusa.com

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Debra has 39 years of experience working in the Sterile Processing field, with 16 years in SPD consulting and 20 years in management. Debra maintains certifications such as CRCST, CIS, and CHL and is a certified instructor through HSPA. She also maintains certification as a Lean Black Belt Professional (LBBP). Her consulting experience includes interim management, process improvement, HSPA certification course instruction, new construction logistics, SPD assessments and asset management relating to instrument tracking systems.

Debra has managed four healthcare system SPDs, ranging from a multi-facility healthcare system in Saudi Arabia to a teaching medical center in the United States. Debra has served as President of the Nebraskaland Central Service Association. She was a member of the ASHCSP Education Committee.

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