

WHOSE JOB IS IT ANYWAY?



INVENTORY MANAGEMENT EXPERT

 BEYOND
CLEAN

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Beyond Clean Inventory Management Expert™:

Whose Job is it Anyway?

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Every hospital should have one or two people who live and breathe inventory management. Often, it's the material management/supply department for the disposable medical supplies and a designated coordinator for surgical instrument inventory.

But much like the thinking around cyber security, inventory management should be "everyone's responsibility." Maintaining inventory accuracy must be woven into the fabric of an organization. It should be as much a part of who an organization is as quality, customer service, and safety. For that to happen, it should be promoted throughout the organization as everyone's responsibility. That can help eradicate the "it's not my job" mentality.

To keep it top of mind, you could, for instance, assign Sterile Processing staff a daily rotation of conducting an inventory count of the preset par levels. Any staff who touches any stage of the supply chain process should be involved in its management, from warehouse managers to procurement specialists, to pickers on the floor.

The risks of having so many involved are that some may not take the job seriously, and multiple players may result in inconsistent data. But the benefits far outweigh the risks.

What are some common quantitative inventory management KPIs anyway?

- Inventory turnover
- Frequency of inventory requests without available stock
- Non-critical stock that remains unused over time
- Amount of a manufacturer's working capital that is tied up in inventory
- Order cycle time

A great goal in Sterile Processing can be for case trays to be 100% complete, 100% clean and sterile, and 100% on time. Inventory management is vital to help avoid increased costs, delays in demand fulfillment, and delayed or canceled surgical cases.

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

Beyond Clean Inventory Management Expert™ Biography:

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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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