



Gifford Medical Center

Patient Safety/Quality Improvement Project

Reducing Corrugated Cardboard in Patient Care Area

Purpose

The purpose of this project was to decrease corrugated cardboard throughout Gifford's patient care areas.

Time frame: January – March 2016

Description

Corrugated cardboard boxes are not appropriate as storage units in medical or clean supply rooms. The boxes may harbor dust, bacteria, and small insects that have entered during shipping. Controlling the presence of corrugated cardboard is challenging due to multiple points of entry into the building.

Project Activities/Goals

- 1) Safety Committee and Materials Management began looking at the cardboard “problem” by examining all of the sources through which cardboard arrived in patient care areas.
- 2) Materials Management purchased plastic totes and implemented a process change for how supplies are handled and delivered.

Outcomes

Results are positive, and the impact was noticed almost immediately. After two weeks, departments that struggled to manage cardboard were noted to be virtually cardboard free during environmental care rounds. We will continue to monitor this closely for sustainability.

Contact

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