



Clinical Products Healthcare Case Study

# Streamlining Storage to Support OR Efficiency

High-Density Solution Brings 98 Percent of OR Supplies to Convenient Central Storage

## > The Challenge

As hospitals look for ways to contain costs and improve efficiency, managing supply inventories are an important issue. Supply management is especially important in hospital surgical centers – typically one of the most expensive departments in a hospital – with a vast array of supplies required to support quality care, from disposable materials to advanced technology.

To enhance efficiency and maximize use of space, hospitals are designing state-of-the-art surgical facilities with “central core” storage to provide ample, convenient access to supplies. Central core design, with an area one-fourth to one-third the size of the overall surgical space devoted to storage, provides convenient access to ample supplies – while preserving precious space inside the operating room. Central core design also frees up space in other areas of the hospital that might otherwise be used for storing surgical supplies and equipment.

Union Hospital in Terre Haute, Indiana adopted a central core approach when designing the Advanced Surgery Center that opened in January 2010 as part of a major expansion project. Union Hospital is the primary facility in a not-for-profit healthcare

system that provides comprehensive care to residents of west central Indiana and eastern Illinois.

Physicians at Union Hospital’s Advanced Surgery Center, which operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, perform more than 10,000 surgical procedures annually. The new facility features 12 operating rooms, including rooms dedicated to urologic cytology procedures and open heart procedures.

“Our goal was to store 98 percent of our surgical supplies inside the core,” said Rosann Chambers, OR Business Manager, Surgical Services. “In our old hospital, we had supplies stowed in a variety of locations, and we needed a centralized approach to improve efficiency.”

Once the facility was designed, however, the challenge remained: how to maximize storage in the long, somewhat narrow space devoted to the central core in the OR?



## >>> At-a-Glance

**ORGANIZATION**  
Union Hospital

**LOCATION**  
Terre Haute, Indiana

### **BENEFITS OF METRO CLINICAL PRODUCTS SOLUTION**

- Increases storage capacity by up to 50 percent
- Microban protection keeps the product surfaces cleaner 24/7 for the life of the product
- Flexible design for easy reconfiguration

“Metro’s solution helped us reach our goal of storing 98 percent of our surgical supplies inside the central core of the Advanced Surgery Center, which has improved efficiently significantly.”

*Rosann Chambers,  
OR Business Manager,  
Surgical Services*

## > The Solution

To address the issue, Union Hospital turned to Metro, a long-time partner providing storage solutions since the 1980s. Using CAD drawings of the planned central core area, Metro helped design the storage system to maximize available space. To meet Union Hospital's specific needs, Metro recommended its MetroMax i™ high-density Top-Track™ system that increases the capacity of a given area by up to 50 percent.

The Top-Track overhead track system provides an unobstructed movable aisle that allows more storage units to fit in a defined area. Metro's Top-Track moveable aisle design allows full access to each unit to eliminate hard-to-reach spaces. The overhead tracks also facilitate easy cleaning of floors to support infection control procedures.

MetroMax i's polymer design features smooth surfaces and removable shelf mats that protect

sensitive packaged items and wrapped instruments from tears or damage – a key to eliminating waste and cutting costs. The removable shelf mat design promotes infection control by allowing easy cleaning on the unit or at the sink.

To further support product cleanliness, the shelf frames, polymer shelf mats and posts are constructed from an easy-to-clean polymer material with built-in Microban® antimicrobial product protection to inhibit the growth of bacteria, mold, mildew, and fungus that cause odor, stains and product degradation.

The system also met Union Hospital's needs to move storage units easily – even when stocked with heavy loads of up to 900lbs. Units can also be reconfigured easily as demands change.

As part of the transition to its new wing, Union Hospital wanted to

re-use Metro track shelving from its vacated surgery center into the facility's new sterile processing unit.

“Metro provided outstanding service in helping us relocate the existing shelving over the course of one weekend to facilitate the move into our new facility,” said Chambers. “They really went the extra mile to help us, and have been a wonderful partner.”

## > The Result

When Union Hospital opened its new Advanced Surgery Center, it reached its goal of storing 98 percent of supplies inside the central core. That success enables surgical teams to access supplies more conveniently and enhances flexibility to meet fast-changing medical challenges. In addition, it is making a significant impact on the hospital's bottom line by improving efficiency, freeing up space otherwise used for storage, and eliminating wasted supplies.



For More Information

[www.reynoldsstoragesystems.com](http://www.reynoldsstoragesystems.com)

610-398-9080

[info@reynoldsbusiness.com](mailto:info@reynoldsbusiness.com)

682 N Brookside Rd Allentown, PA 18106

## ABOUT METRO

Metro is a world leader in providing technology, storage and transport solutions for healthcare facilities and other industries. Metro's Healthcare Division integrates its clinical storage products with market-leading mobile computing and medication management solutions. Metro works with clinical software developers, OEM business partners and value-added resellers to deliver patented integrated solutions to medical facilities across the U.S., Europe, the Middle East and Asia.



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InterMetro Industries Corp.  
651 North Washington Street  
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18705  
800-992-1776

[www.metro.com](http://www.metro.com)

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