



Management and Organization of Storage in Hospitals, Health Storehouses, and Health Care Facilities

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

Store management includes managing warehouses, inventory data, holding and storing medications, and safeguarding and protecting products. In the supply chain, a store is where we keep stock. Keeping goods on hand ensures that upcoming client demand will be met. As a result, every company keeps a certain amount of inventory on hand to meet client demand. Inventory requires many points of stocking and typically has more items than other hospital inventories. The trade-off between inventory costs and the degree of necessary service that each surgeon expects

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to get makes inventory management in an OR (operating room) more challenging than it would be in a manufacturing environment. The store's management should facilitate the most efficient and dependable supply chain possible without significantly compromising quality, wasting resources, or committing theft. It has been noted that the volume of data is growing exponentially over time. Scientifically, vast databases are also becoming increasingly relevant to shared resources. These sorts of enormous and vast databases are often kept in cloud-based data centers. Since the majority of scientific data is in huge volumes and organizations and industries may not always have access to the storage space, processing resources, computing capacity, or upkeep of such data. As a result, the majority of businesses employ cloud services.

Keywords: Organization of storage; hospitals; health storehouses; health care facilities; storage of equipment; supplies storage.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Healthcare Enterprise's (HE) storage goals are to guarantee that information (images and data) is accessible at all times and from any location, that the data and images are safe, and that the storage complies with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). These goals must be achieved with the least amount of financial investment in terms of people, technology, space, and communications. These goals can be met by a variety of strategies and storage arrangements. Depending on the institution's size, patient base, geographic distribution, number of facilities (such as a hospital, outpatient clinic, or private imaging center), and investment goals, a particular method will be adopted [1]. Data used to be saved and accessed locally from a single system before the invention of cloud computing, however, the single machine was unreliable owing to problems with backup data synchronization. Users were unable to access recent data from the local system in the event of destruction. Another problem was how to keep the data safe on that one system. In the distributed system, data synchronization was also essential. In addition, if the amount of data was more than the machine's storage capacity, it presented another problem [2].

Store management includes managing warehouses, inventory data, holding and storing medications, and safeguarding and protecting products. In the supply chain, a store is where we keep stock [3]. Keeping goods on hand ensures that upcoming client demand will be met. As a result, every company keeps a certain amount of inventory on hand to meet client demand [4]. The larger functions of holding, quality control, personnel training, and administrative support for retail operations are all included in shop management [5].

Inventory requires many points of stocking and typically has more items than other hospital inventories. The trade-off between inventory costs and the degree of necessary service that each surgeon expects to get makes inventory management in an OR (operating room) more challenging than it would be in a manufacturing environment. This causes tension between surgeons in the operating room, who anticipate having everything on hand, and inventory managers, who are trying to save inventory expenses. Additionally, there is typically no standardized method for managing materials in hospitals. The surgeon's "preference card" has a significant impact on how surgical supplies and equipment are managed, particularly in the operating room [6].

Manufacturing cycle management (MCM) may maintain the strategic national stockpile (SNS) below the level necessary to satisfy the demand resulting from an emergency in order to optimize profit margins [7]. As a result, when a crisis condition begins, there may be a shortage since demand may exceed supply. This is demonstrated by a significant decrease in the fill rate for medications required for ventilator usage during the COVID-19 pandemic [8]. A shortage, however, may also happen if a crisis condition affects a major goods provider. Due to reliance on the area for raw materials, disruption in Malaysia for example might cause a global scarcity of sterile gloves. A lower impact would occur from getting resources from many worldwide sources to reduce risk [9,10].

1.1 Study Rationale

In order to prevent pharmaceutical waste, healthcare institutions must maintain correct storage conditions [11]. Pharmaceuticals kept their potency when kept in pharmacies with excellent storage facilities. The shelf life of goods

is extended, only high-quality medications are distributed, and wastage due to broken or expired medications is reduced when medicines are stored properly at healthcare facilities [12]. Therefore, in order to facilitate the delivery of healthcare, regulatory agencies and pharmaceutical organizations should stress the need of maintaining excellent storage conditions. The store's management should facilitate the most efficient and dependable supply chain possible without significantly compromising quality, wasting resources, or committing theft [13].

1.2 Study Objectives

The objective of this study was to the updates in management and organization of Supplies and pharmaceutical stores in hospitals, pharmaceutical, and Supplies health storehouses, and health care facilities to assess pharmaceutical and Supplies stores and wastage of medicines due to the expiration of drugs and Supplies in Saudi Arabia.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Design: Review article.

Study duration: Data was collected during the period from 1– 29 September 2022.

Data collection: PubMed and EBSCO Information Services were chosen as the search databases for the publications used within the study, as they are high-quality sources. PubMed is one of the largest digital libraries on the internet developed by the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) which is a part of the United States National Library of Medicine (NLM). Topics concerning the updates in management and organization of storage in hospitals, health storehouses, and health care facilities, published in English around the world. The keyword search headings included "Organization of storage, Hospitals, Health Storehouses, Health Care Facilities, Storage of equipment, supplies storage" and a combination of these was used. The reference list of each included study was searched for further supportive data. A double revision of each member's outcomes was applied to ensure validity.

During article selection, studies were double-reviewed, and their results were to assure that we enroll the studies related to the objective of

our study and to avoid or minimize errors in the results.

Data management and analysis: No software was utilized to analyze the data. The data will be extracted based on a specific form that contains (Author's name, year of publication, study type, objective, and outcomes).

Mapping and interpretation: The reviewers used charts to define the identified concepts and map the range and nature of the phenomena. The review explored associations between the themes to help clarify the findings. The review was mapped and interpreted findings in line with the review objectives and emerging themes.

Information Storage: The properties of the imaging modalities, the number of imaging devices and databases, the number and position of imaging sites that make up the HE, the size of the data and pictures, and the anticipated procedure volume increase all have a role in how much storage is needed. The only thing that is guaranteed about storage needs is that they will grow dramatically over time. The functionalities of the various storage types used in the HE may be used to define them: Online and long-term storage are both included in active storage. Backup pictures are momentarily stored on the modality's constrained storage for a few days or longer. The study is duplicated on various media (such as CD, DVD, or tape), in various places [1].

Health associations may reduce their significant cycles and provide different forms of help in a more efficient and cost-effective manner thanks to health information technology (HIT). A huge number of organizations and associations have switched their healthcare data sources to distributed storage as a result of the growth of cloud storage computing (CSC). The availability of information becomes a critical demand because it may be cited whenever and wherever. However, cloud storage disruptions mostly affect the amount of accessibility. The data stored in cloud storage for e-Healthcare systems is directly impacted by availability, just like it is by the other fundamental factors of cloud storage (such as dependability, quality, performance, security, and protection) [2].

It is necessary to automate the backup of data and photos. HIPAA mandates that all healthcare organizations have a disaster recovery strategy in place. In order to ensure that the disaster recovery copy is accessible in the event that the

original copy of the data is lost or unavailable, it is necessary for all medical data to be safe, retrievable, and kept in a second place. It is imperative to plan for the HE archive if the HE is to operate effectively in a connected digital space. Planning for the HE archive, which must be housed in a secure data center and not be managed by a single clinical department, must involve the information technology department in a significant way. A cost-effective, scalable solution that will enable the HE to benefit from future storage and storage management technology must be selected once the currently available technologies have been reviewed [1].

It has been noted that the volume of data is growing exponentially over time. Scientifically vast databases are also becoming increasingly relevant to shared resources. These sorts of enormous and vast databases are often kept in cloud-based data centers. Since the majority of scientific data is in huge volumes, such as Terabytes (TB) or Petabytes (PB), organizations and industries may not always have access to the storage space, processing resources, computing capacity, or upkeep of such data. As a result, the majority of businesses employ cloud services in this respect so they don't have to maintain such substantial internal storage and computing capacities [2].

Surgical Supplies Management: The preference card is a list of every item and how much of each is needed in the operating room for a particular surgery. Additionally, it contains the quantity of each supply that the surgeons want to be opened before the starting of an operation. There is a tendency for surgeons to seek materials "just in case," rather than necessary based on the needs of the patient. For instance, a preference card analysis of 10 surgeons who conducted laparoscopic cholecystectomy procedures showed that the average cost of disposable supplies was \$333, with a range of \$92 to \$637 [6,14].

Given its logistical setup, extensive equipment, and the kind of support offered, the surgery center is one of the most complicated parts of a hospital. Additionally, several hospital procedures and subprocedures are both, directly and indirectly, related to surgery. In a hospital, there are two distinct warehouses: Drugs, vaccinations, and serums are kept in the first warehouse, known as the Pharmaceutical Warehouse (PW), whereas common items like diapers, syringes, gloves, and medical supplies

are kept in the second warehouse. Orthotics, Prosthetics, and Special Items, a category of specialist therapeutic materials, are also kept there (OPSM). Hence, it is known as a Material Warehouse (MW). A core warehouse and a satellite warehouse make up the MW. The hospital's Surgical Center, which has many operating rooms, serves as the satellite warehouse (SW), which typically functions from there and obtains its supplies from the main warehouse [15].

ABC classification, where the categorization is based on the cost of the supply, is a very fundamental method of inventory control. The A class, which consumes a large portion of the funds (70%) yet only makes up 10% of the total products, deserves more consideration. 20% of the budget, or around 20% of the products, are in group B. Group C comprises the remaining 70% of the products and accounts for 10% of the budget. Gupta et al. provide VED analysis, which depends on the criticality of the items, in addition to the ABC analysis. "V" stands for the essential components on which a hospital's ability to function relies largely. The service's quality depends on this collection of things, which are designated with the letter "E." "D" denotes desired products that, even if unavailable, do not interfere with a hospital's ability to function. Al-Qataweh and Hafeez then expand on the item classification by taking into consideration usage frequency in addition to cost and criticality [6,16,17].

It is customary for certain hospitals and clinics to maintain improvised warehouses where they save everyday consumables for later use. Due to challenges in creating more ordered procedures, it is common for personnel to keep supplies secret in medical units according to Volland et al. For instance, the hospital's ambulatory has a physical area for storing and distributing goods. In order to save time and guarantee material availability, the ambulatory staff administer and maintain this "informal" warehouse and distribution facility, which is not a formal component of the hospital [15].

The "sterilization processing cycle" is a closed-loop chain that was initially studied by Fineman and Kapadia in 1978. Receiving contaminated surgical instruments, cleaning, checking, packing, and storing the grouped goods are all steps in this process. The processing stock and the replacement stock are the two divisions made by the authors of sterile stock. The first

one is needed to maintain the previous processing cycle, while the second one is needed to replenish lost, broken, or worn-out things. Demand is taken to remain constant for the analysis of the two categories, greatly simplifying the issue. In order to calculate the inventory needs for replacement stock, they apply an EOQ model [6].

The majority of the time, surgical tissues from routine operations are used for intraoperative diagnosis. Additionally, the tissues are saved and banked for patient access in the future. Every effort must be made to collect tissue properly since surgical tissues are particularly interesting to both patients and clinical researchers. When it comes to the collection, identification, distribution, and preservation of surgical tissues, following well-planned protocols is crucial. Along with other domestic and foreign institutions, the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER) have developed standard practice recommendations outlining ways to retain high-quality biospecimens [18].

The surgical center and satellite warehouse teams have access to the surgical map 24 hours in advance. Although developing this map can aid in planning the kits and serve as a vital communication tool, there are still issues. The primary one has to do with how frequently the rounds are made. The procedures that are planned or scheduled after that are included in the surgical map late since they only occur once a week, which might lead to organizational issues [15].

Pharmaceutical Material Storage: The proper acquisition, storage, preparation, and dispensing of medications is a multidisciplinary task that falls under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist in the pharmacy department. Compounding and administering medications as well as advising patients are two of a pharmacist's key duties. Purchasing, storing, administering, and documenting drugs correctly are crucial components of pharmacy administration. During the process of purchasing, storing, distributing, and using medications, significant volumes are squandered. The "Good Pharmacy Practice in Community and Hospital Pharmacy Settings" criteria were created by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (IPF) in 1992 based on the pharmaceutical care given by pharmacists. The recommendations establish

national standards for pharmacists' work in promoting patient wellness, providing medications and medical equipment, and enhancing prescription and medication utilization [19].

Supply and demand imbalances or supply chain interruptions can lead to unpredictable supply shortages. APIs, or active pharmaceutical ingredients, are often imported from China and India at a rate of about 80%. Additionally, India purchases around 70% of its APIs from China, so any kinks in either country's supply chain might be problematic. Diversifying the sources from which goods are sourced, however, can also aid in reducing these shortages. The future success of supply chain management depends on increasing the openness of where raw materials are produced and developing technologies that can foresee possible shortages. To satisfy supply needs, it is also crucial to create a proactive budgeting approach. Early assignment of trustworthy duties to support organizations can help with this [7].

Due to its dual burden, the expiry of medications at healthcare facilities is a major problem. It results in the loss of potentially life-saving medications and wasteful spending on the disposal of such outdated medications. Drug expiration may ultimately have a negative impact on the delivery of health services and the standard of care, making it more difficult to achieve universal health coverage. About 70% of the money spent on pharmaceuticals is thought to be lost or squandered. However, these losses may be drastically decreased by improving fundamental pharmaceutical management. For instance, research showed that it is feasible to cut the amount of medication lost due to expiry and inappropriate storage by 3% and 4%, respectively [11, 20-22].

3. CONCLUSION

With time more healthcare facilities are moving toward cloud-based storage systems for information storage because, in addition to its safety, it allows for the easiness of access to this valuable information from remote locations which in turn will help researchers access big data.

Keeping goods on hand ensures that upcoming client demand will be met. As a result, every company keeps a certain amount of inventory on hand to meet client demand. Inventory requires many points of stocking and typically has more

items than other hospital inventories. The trade-off between inventory costs and the degree of necessary service that each hospital expects to get makes inventory management more challenging. The store's management should facilitate the most efficient and dependable supply chain possible without significantly compromising quality, wasting resources, or committing theft.

ABC classification, where the categorization is based on the cost of the supply, is a very fundamental method of inventory control. However, there is also VED analysis, which depends on the criticality of the items, in addition to the ABC analysis.

CONSENT

It is not applicable.

ETHICAL APPROVAL

It is not applicable.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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