

Automation solves inventory challenges

Name: Meeker Memorial Hospital
Location: Litchfield, MN
Established: 1897
Size: 35 beds

Background

Meeker Memorial Hospital prides itself on being at the forefront of medical technology, service, and care. The 35-bed hospital in Litchfield, MN, is a county-owned, not for profit, acute-care facility with 24-hour emergency and inpatient services, as well as outpatient services.

Both the hospital and Meeker Memorial Clinic have been recognized for excellence. The clinic, which has locations in Litchfield and Dassel, MN, has measured in the 95th percentile for patient satisfaction, and the hospital carries the Women's Choice Award seal for supporting the empowerment of women and, specifically, for excellence in obstetrics.

The situation

Community hospitals are often called upon to provide a wide range of services and support diverse community needs with limited resources. A dedicated team at Meeker Memorial continually works toward excellence in both patient care and business processes.

One of the ongoing challenges is being able to upgrade technology to support emerging business requirements. Inventory management systems at Meeker Memorial were a blend of manual processes supported by a limited health information system that was designed more to handle billing than to manage materials.

Under its previous system, a supply chain tech received everything manually and kept records in a three-ring binder, counting supplies and writing down reorder quantities she knew would prevent stock-outs. The reporting with these manual processes fell short of what

the supply chain team needed, and offered no easy way to enter orders or automatically reorder materials.

“We had a lot of manual processes we needed to replace,” said Gary Bridge, Meeker Memorial’s materials management director. “In retrospect, we can see we were carrying more inventory than we needed so the nurses wouldn’t be out of products.”

The solution

Meeker Memorial settled on JumpStock to address its materials management needs and fit the solution into its existing budget with a plan to begin in central supply before rolling out to the lab and, eventually, to surgery.

“What was most appealing about the Jump Technologies solution was its simplicity,” Bridge said. “It’s very user-friendly and easy to use, very intuitive. We liked the flexibility of the hardware that could be used, with small, hand-held scanners and the mobile app. Plus, financially it made sense.”

– Gary Bridge, Meeker Memorial materials management director

The Jump Technologies implementation team worked closely with Meeker Memorial during the implementation of JumpStock. The cloud-based system is easily implemented, requiring no servers and minimal hardware (scanners or smart devices). Once the account was created, the team set up the central supply location and uploaded the supplies into JumpStock, creating the foundation for items that would be managed and replenished via a PAR approach. Staff training took place in person, with follow-up by phone.

“The system is so easy to use — our purchasing assistant has really excelled with it,” said Bridge. “We started in central supply and are now getting ready to go live in the lab. We’ll follow that with surgery.”



Results

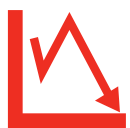
Using the reporting tools in JumpStock, the team at Meeker Memorial has been able to reduce inventory by 15 percent. The hospital is also getting a clearer picture of supply use, allowing staff to make changes to PAR levels based on accurate reporting of what is actually used. With more areas ready to implement JumpStock, those savings will continue to increase.

“With the lab going live next, we’ll undoubtedly see improvements in how they’re able to manage supplies. And because we have a great working relationship with

surgery, they’re extremely receptive to implementing JumpStock,” Bridge said. “They hold one of the largest inventories we have, and it was frustrating at times to only have visibility to surgery’s supplies once a year, when they completed their physical inventory.

According to Bridge, Meeker Memorial is seeing reductions in inventory today, and better visibility into supplies and expects to measure labor savings in the future.

RESULTS/TAKEAWAYS



JumpStock reduced inventory by as much as **15 percent** in some areas.



Creating an accurate, aggregated view of supplies helped **reduce costs**.



Tying products directly to patients enabled **more transparent and accurate billing**.