

# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

## With Surgical Precision

### CHALLENGE

The Owensboro Healthcare System, in Kentucky, was designing and constructing a new hospital to replace an older facility. The Sterile Processing Department (SPD) and surrounding areas in the old space were cramped – in terms of shelving, overflowing products and supplies, and staff accommodation. Team members found it difficult to navigate the area,



often spending a long time searching for the instruments necessary for the 50–60 daily surgical cases. The limited floor space and awkward flow also slowed down the sterile processing itself – from wash to dry to storage. An outdated indexing system also meant that it took longer to find the right items on demand.

### SOLUTION

The opportunity to help design the new space from the outset allowed for hand-picked solutions in the new hospital's SPD. Bearing in mind what didn't work in the old building helped create an area that was clean, efficient, and conducive to productivity.

The new SPD measured approximately 3,150 square feet, and benefitted greatly from the inclusion of moveable shelving. Equipment used in the new space included: Spacesaver MA/CF carriages; case-style shelving; Eagle waterfall shelves; frame WRX/HD; Hupfer baskets; and stainless pegboard.

Ongoing discussions during the building process led to additional solutions being implemented for surrounding areas, as well.

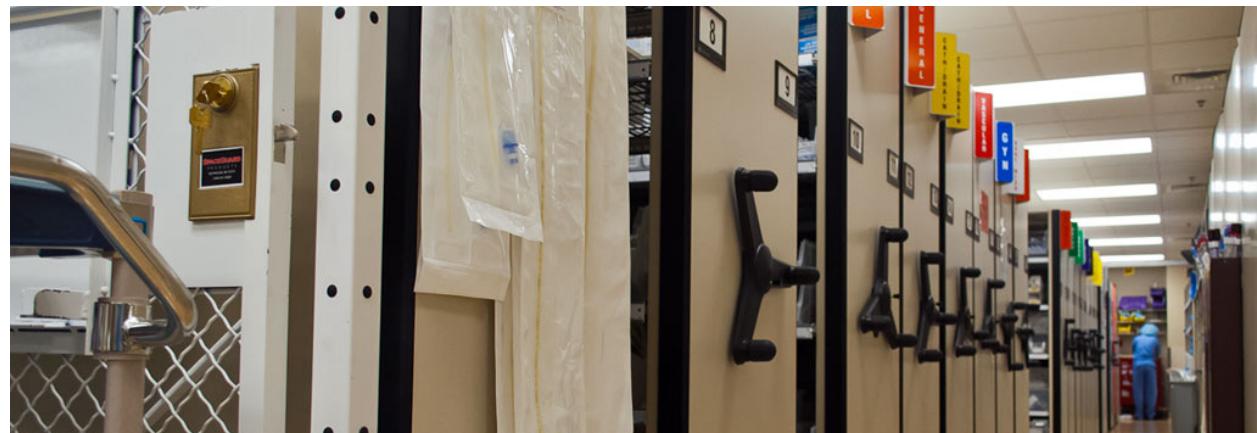
### The Storage Applications included:

**Surgical and Specialty Cores:** (operating rooms and associated storage areas) Spacesaver MA/CF carriages; case-style shelving; EZ-rail w/ bins; Rousseau drawers; Eagle waterfall; Ideal Environments suture/catheter/sorter racks; Spacesaver security doors

**Lab:** Spacesaver MA/CF carriages; case-styling shelving; Eagle waterfall shelves; Spacesaver M/DF system

**Maintenance:** ActivRAC/M; 4-post shelving

**Medical Library:** Spacesaver MA/CF carriages; cantilever shelving



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## ACHIEVEMENT

Building a solution from the ground up – and with the approval of the storage team, the architects and the SPD team – was remarkably rewarding for all involved. "The expandability of the shelving systems in all these areas has been phenomenal," said Chris Edwards, the SPD director. "We so appreciate the fact that it's not a cookie-cutter solution. It's personalized for our needs. As an example - each of our services' instruments are now color-coded, so the specialty nurses can more easily find what they're looking for. Patterson Pope was wonderful with work with."

"We're extremely happy with the work Patterson Pope did for us," added Edwards. "We've had people from other hospitals who are looking to build their own new facilities. Many of those groups have been highly complimentary of our space here. They say it's one of the most streamlined cores they've ever seen."

The "sterile core" was at the center of the job. Creating a more unified, organized area there led to an expansion of the project. In the end, a space covering more than 6,000 sq. ft. was refreshed, which helped the staff at this Kentucky hospital embrace their new building with excitement.

