

# PHARMACY STORAGE

- Hospital Pharmacy
- Retail Pharmacy
- Emergency Room
- Health Center
- Bio-Chemical Laboratory

## PROBLEM

This pharmacy operation was rapidly developing storage space problems because of its growing inventory of drugs and medications and, as a result, was losing its grip on overall inventory management and security. With six pharmacies spread out all over the hospital complex, it was becoming a nightmare trying to maintain storage near each pharmacy due to lack of space.

## OBJECTIVE

To create more efficient storage in the same space as before while better managing inventory and providing medication security—yet still providing easy access to staff in a fast-paced, sometimes hectic, hospital environment.

## SOLUTION

We tackled the problem with multiple high-density mobile shelving systems. Working closely with each of the pharmacy staffs to ascertain their needs, we designed a specific application for pharmacy storage. We utilized end caps to keep fast-moving medications within immediate reach. The system also prevents theft with proven security options like lockable units, lockable drawers, secure access control, and multiple aisle access. The new systems deliver up to five times the capacity of standard storage by making better use of each pharmacy's floor space.

Additionally, the pharmacies were able to improve accountability and inventory control with a new bar coding system that made it easy to track stored medications and supplies. Overall staff retrieval time improved because the new system has features that enable more than one pharmacist to use an aisle at any given time. In an environment of constantly shifting drug inventories, the easily adjustable shelves make the process effortless.

The system also employs a mechanical synchro-drive system that provides



smooth movement of storage shelves to minimize jarring, thus protecting fragile items. Best of all, the system is easily reconfigurable and upgradeable to meet the pharmacy's growing storage needs down the road.

Five of the mobile storage systems were designed for use at the patient floor levels. The sixth mobile storage system was designed to store all the mass lots of medications that were received and inventoried for distribution to the patient floor level pharmacies. Each system used a different type of shelving and a different type of end panel laminate. The customizable nature of these high density mobile storage systems allowed us to accommodate each area's decorative need. Because of the ability to use each section of the mobile filing system for a different storage application, the pharmacy was able to store not only medications, but also sensitive drug and use records. This freed up even more space, allowing staff to work in a much less cluttered area and therefore eliminating spoilage from accidental medication spills.

Additionally, the front-end filing and storage systems provide instant access to "active" medications as well as records and materials. Medications, patient and medical files may be returned to the front-end shelves instead of re-filing, which can now be done at the end of a shift.

