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Robust Supply Chain Through A Multi-Disciplinary Approach

Introduction

The current hospital beds have been in use since the inception of the hospital in 1996, they are approximately 15 years old. As a consequence, maintenance requirements to keep them at an optimum operating condition has been increasing over the years. Nursing initiated the proposal and obtained approval from CEO to replace the beds in phases.

Objective

A Project Team was given the challenge to replace 504 beds and concurrently replace all bedside cabinets and over-bed tables within the budget allocated for beds only.

Methodology

The Team based their approach using the Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) methodology. This implied that all stakeholders involved in maintaining and operating the bed were engaged for their inputs - from procurement to nursing to environmental services and facilities management. The Team was also tasked to seek and assess new innovations that will enhance patient's safety, comfort and increase staff efficiency.

Results

While assessing the bed, the Team took the opportunity to engage vendors on safety enhancements to the bed. In this project, the Team met with the Research and Development staff of the bed manufacturer. The outcome of the engagement resulted in the following modifications to the bed, bedside locker and over-bed table :

- i. Bed rails lever was given a more user-friendly design
- ii. A 5th wheel was added to enhance manoeuvrability of the bed and also address the needs of our aging workforce.
- iii. Bedside locker was installed with digital lock, with keypad that will light up upon activation, that facilitates night time usage .
- iv. Over-bed table were re-designed to facilitate cleaning and infection control.

Tangible Benefit

There were substantial amount of cost-saving and it was used to finance the purchase of bedside cabinets and over-bed tables for the "complete look."

Intangible Benefit

The product enhancements met our patient's safety needs and improved their experience. The 2 pairs of half length bed rails aids in patient's movement in getting on and off the bed safely. The mattress is also able to relieve pressure, which is especially beneficial for our elderly and/or immobile patients.

The vendor and a specialist conducted training to our staff to maximize the usage of the bed to facilitate and reduce work related injuries.

Conclusion

A multi-disciplinary approach enhances the evaluation process by incorporating perspectives from patients and all stakeholders.

