

# DRESSING TROLLEYS IN THE HEALTHCARE CENTERS : A PERSPECTIVE

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## INTRODUCTION

Cart (trolley) is an item made to store and/or to transfer particular objects and materials. However, the word "cart" or "trolley" is applied to few different things in our life, whether in airport, shopping centers or hospitals.

Even in medical context, there are few different trolleys. For example they include Patient Transfer Trolleys, crash cart, Washing and Changing Trolley for General Ward Use, drugs trolleys and more recently nursing computer trolleys (flow carts).

A crash cart or code cart (crash trolley in UK medical jargon) is a set of trays/drawers/shelves on wheels used in hospitals for transportation and dispensing of emergency medications (Wikimedia Foundation, 2012; Calvo Macías *et al.*, 2007)

In this communication, I shall highlight on some remarks about dressing trolley, specifically, as it is the oldest type in use in medical field and a main component in managing patients but the least recognized

## DO WE NEED IT?

Although it is practical to move the trolleys to different patients rooms and other places in the hospital where it is needed, many healthcare centers made "treatment rooms" in which there are fixed cabinets and drawers which contains all the instruments and materials needed for dressing.

The above concept of having a treatment room in each ward in a hospital instead of serving the patients in their admission rooms is more preferable because of some potential disadvantages of dressing trolleys. The dressing trolleys increase the chances of spreading infection between patients rooms (de Gialluly, *et al.*, 2006) or creating a noise due to its movement (Shankar *et al.*, 2001). Even very big Trolleys are unable to accommodate all the instruments and gadgets needed by physicians and nurses in the dressing.

## DESIGN

One can easily see different designs of trolleys with respect to the shape of shelves, drawers, basins, plastic soiled collection pails, castors and other things associated with trolleys.

It might be prudent for health care authorities to acquire the most standard design of trolleys which will serve as the most optimal thing for health care providers. The design of trolleys should not be left to the factories to manufacture but should be designed according to the need of the healthcare providers.

The criteria like easily cleaning surfaces, appropriate height to prevent back pain for the practitioners (Vasiliadou *et al.*, 1995), wheels with no noise should be kept under considerations while manufacturing these trolleys.

## THE CONTENTS

The design and the contents of dressing trolleys vary according to the facility and its characteristics. The health care authorities also recommend adhering to the standard contents and not to allow inexperienced nurse to fill it according to his/her wish.

The contents should be organized, nicely spaced to prevent mixing, properly labeled and refilled at appropriate time.

## CONCLUSION

The concerned health authorities need to improve the trolley and increase its effectiveness. New ideas like incorporating a heating source in the trolley to heat some of the dressing solutions, or a source for air with pipe to use it for cleaning should be discussed. Similarly, thoughts of adding new items to the trolleys like honey should be attempted.

The materials in the trolleys must be checked periodically and all the staff (physicians, nurses, and auxiliary personnel) must be familiar with the trolley's contents and the location of all material and drugs.

So it can be concluded that the Nursing administration in the healthcare centers should review

on the site trolleys in the hospital and make sure that they are always clean, fully supplied, and well organized.

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