

Case Study *healthcare*



Two mobile systems store a growing number of medical records and allow for future growth.

Two Spacesaver mobile systems help hospital postpone optical imaging investment, eliminate temporary microfilming costs

The medical records department of the Cape Fear Valley Health System in Fayetteville, NC, needed a quick and cost-effective spacesaving solution to accommodate its growing volume of medical records. It purchased two Spacesaver systems off of a Novation buying group contract and was able to minimize its costs associated with microfilming and prepare for future plans to invest in optical imaging.



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worth of storage space on our shelves,” explained Brennon Bohol, assistant director of medical records. “The medical records department file room was cluttered and out of space. The Spacesaver system helped us get organized and provided a cost-effective growth solution.”

“We needed more space in our file room. Although we have been using microfilming as a storage option, we were looking for another solution that would add at least another year’s

With additional facilities being added to the healthcare system and an increasing rate of outpatient care, the number of new incoming medical records was growing exponentially. The medical center’s projection for growth of medical records over the coming year was double that of current volume. It



The mobile systems help to eliminate clutter in the medical records department.

needed a quick solution to its storage crisis and introduced two mobile systems into the file room.

A Programmable Electric mobile system is used to store more than 500,000 paper records. The electric features offer ease of movement, while allowing the system to be space-efficiently designed with

expansive aisles. The Zero Force Sensor feature provides the safety and security needed for a busy file room area.

A mechanical assist system met the facility’s needs to store microfilm and microfiche cards. The flexibility in



Spacesaver's shelving design allowed the department to space shelves close together in order to densely store the small 3-inch by 5-inch envelopes and maximize square foot storage.

Bohol explained that storage of health information is moving to optical imaging and eventually the hospital's goal is to have everything on-line. Before it moved to the next level of on-line storage of health information the department wanted to clean up its file room area. Charts were stacked up everywhere, at the ends of shelves and on top of shelves.

"We have plans to move into optical imaging but we didn't know how long before we would have the funds to invest in the equipment. In the meantime, we needed to have a lasting storage solution to accommodate the growing number of records, while avoiding the costs associated with microfilming," said Bohol.

At the rate that files were coming in, the department would have been microfilming much more often and that



The Programmable Electric system accommodates heavy loads and provides necessary safety features.



was not an option. Although the hospital uses microfilming now, it is not a storage solution they want to continue using.

"Microfilming is very costly and we wanted to put it on hold. The Spacesaver system has given us more space and has allowed us the ability to push back the need for microfilming for a couple of years. Now our time schedule to obtain an optical imaging system is more flexible. And the money we save on microfilming we can put toward new optical

imaging equipment," explained Bohol.

The Spacesaver system has improved organization and consequently, the department's efficiency. The medical records department averages 2,300 pulls a month and that number is increasing. The department is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. With a high frequency of file requests coming at all hours of the day, it is important that its records be easy to locate and retrieve. •

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A mechanical assist system is ideal for the lighter, shorter carriages designed to hold the hospitals microfiche cards.



Spacesaver

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