



Improving Surgical Efficiency and Instrument Availability Through Data-Driven Optimization

Case Study

The Challenge

A nationally recognized medical center in Washington State sought to address a growing list of challenges faced by its perioperative teams. Instruments were frequently missing, damaged or incomplete, resulting in case delays and frustration among staff. Non-standardized set configurations and inconsistent transfers between campuses compounded the issue, creating bottlenecks in reprocessing and inventory management.

The Plan

Leadership initially thought increasing on-site repair support could solve the problem. To help validate what solution would work best, Aesculap encouraged a data-driven surgical asset management evaluation. This ensured the facility moved forward addressing the root causes of their core issues, not the symptoms.

The Approach

Through a structured, data-driven process, the hospital participated in three of Aesculap's Surgical Asset Management programs, each designed to identify, understand and correct the root causes of inefficiency.



Data Health Assessment

Assessed instrument condition and availability to establish a performance baseline.



Process-Ready Analysis (PRA)

Analyzed workflows, staffing and set movement to uncover process gaps.



Surgical Set Optimization

Streamlined and standardized sets based on actual usage to reduce redundancies and improve readiness.

Findings

On-site, data-driven evaluations revealed the hospital's challenges extended far beyond repair needs. For example:



***44%** of instruments missing from a critical set



***\$50,000** in potential losses from one missing cart alone



***2 campuses** regularly transferring non-compliant sets, creating backlogs

*Aesculap, Inc. Data on File.

These examples reflect a broader set of findings that revealed deeper systemwide inefficiencies affecting day-to-day operations. With this visibility, leadership gained a clearer understanding of how to realign sterile processing operations with surgical demand and improve overall readiness.

Outcome

~\$40,000
in annual cost savings

47 days
of staff time saved each year

The data points shown in this document are based on rounded data. This information is provided for general informational purposes only and this information is not to be considered a guarantee or predictor of future results or success. Decisions based on the information provided are your sole responsibility, and the results obtained are not guaranteed.

Data That Defines the Next Move

How quality information can drive better decisions and outcomes for your facility

Challenge	Missing Data	Next Move	Outcome
Missing instruments and case delays	Instrument availability and utilization	Quantify inventory and instrument usage to identify shortages and redundancies	Eliminated costly, unnecessary instrument orders and optimized instrument availability to keep cases on schedule
Assembly backlogs	Reprocessing capacity	Evaluate reprocessing workflows to optimize staffing and equipment utilization	Eliminated backlogs, ensuring surgical sets are ready when needed
Inefficient surgical set layouts	Standardized set configuration	Conduct an inventory analysis to streamline and standardize sets	Reduced setup time and reprocessing workload
Non-compliant set transfers	Tracking and compliance measures	Establish best practices for set handling and transfers	Compliant handling and tracking improved operational efficiency



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