

# Surgical Case Carts Categories of Supplies

[www.SurgicalCaseCart.com](http://www.SurgicalCaseCart.com)

**Surgical Case Cart items Always used:** items that *will be used* with a high degree of probability for use on the particular case, i.e. drapes, prep kit, anesthesia tubing, gowns, basic instrument set, are usually very predictable.

**Routine Surgical Case Cart supplies:** *required in varying quantities by virtually all cases.* For example, the number of lap sponges, 4x4's, needles, and sutures often *vary from case to case* of the same procedure.

**Surgical Case Cart Specialty items:** that *might be needed* for that particular case. For example, arterial grafts, orthopedic implants, and intraocular lenses are items for which the surgeon generally cannot specify exactly which item will be used prior to the case. There are also instruments or supplies that might be needed only if the case turns out to be more complicated than expected, i.e. an arthroscopic procedure which turns out to require an open incision.

**Surgical Case Cart “supply categorizing is a critical step** towards optimizing your results. This categorization of materials may seem ‘simple-minded’ but hospitals frequently have difficulty optimizing inventory levels and minimizing handling costs because they are not dealing with [handling] supplies differently. **There is a high probability that each category requires a different supply mechanism.**

**Example of how Surgical Case Cart categories *might* be applied.**

- **Surgical Case Cart items Always used:** Case Carts would be used for those items that can be predicted accurately
- **Routine Surgical Case Cart supplies:** Stocked in a Cart in OR rooms for routine items used in varying quantities. This Cart would be restocked daily
- **Surgical Case Cart Specialty items:** Stocked in OR on “Specialty” cart for items that might be used for procedures in a particular specialty.

**Items that just might be used are stocked on the Surgical Case Cart.**

This results in the return [on the Case Carts] of many items that were not used.

**This results in significant double handling** of items picked for the case and then restocked.

The same excessive double handling results when the routine items are stocked on the Case Carts in quantities sufficient to *meet the needs of most cases*. Stocking *at this level* means that on many cases, not all of the routine items will be used.

**Appropriate Surgical Case Cart stocking is a delicate balance**

It can only be achieved with careful planning and good information.

For example, an item should generally not be stocked on a **Surgical Case Cart** unless it is used for at least 50% of cases. **( a facility must Qualify this % )**

A good information system would track the usage of each item on the **Surgical Case Carts** for each procedure type so that the percentage of times each item is used could be determined.

**With proper planning, a Surgical Case Cart usage rate of about 90% can be achieved** for items stocked on case **Surgical Case Carts**. Good backup systems must be in place to supply the items not stocked on **Surgical Case Carts**.

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**yourCEBA**