

Title	A standardised storage solution for blood taking equipment could save the NHS the salary of a whole junior doctor.
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Department	Royal United Hospital, Bath. General Surgery.
Context	RUH, Bath, Inpatient wards
Problem	353 blood samples are taken per day across 28 different wards. No standard storage solution for venapuncture, cannulation, and arterial puncture equipment. Leading to time wasted locating essential equipment, interruptions to nursing staff and delays in emergency situations.
Assessment of problem and analysis of causes	Time taken for junior doctors to locate equipment recorded. Multiple storage solutions with no unified organisational approach. Significant variation in time to collect equipment, but reproducibly reduced times on medical admissions unit (MAU) using standardised blood trolley. MAU (standard) Mean Time = 21.0s (n=19), Non-standardised wards: Mean Time = 114.0s (n=53) (p < 0.001). On average - x4.5 shorter on standard trolleys.
Intervention	Phase 1: Implementation of standardised, comprehensive equipment trolley on 5 inpatient wards. Designed and printed drawer inlays with clear indication of storage location. Continued data collection, mean time to collect equipment reduced. Difference vs MAU trolley no longer statistically significant.
Strategy for change	Proposed a business case to raise funds for implementation of standardised equipment trolleys throughout the trust.
Measures for improvement	Location and stock levels of certain items varies subtly between surgical and medical wards. We are working on a solution to address this.
Effects of change	Significant reduction in time to collect equipment across wards with "Standard Trolley". Efficiency savings have the potential to release up to 2341 hrs/yr to patient care. Documented feedback: Very positive, doctors spent less time locating equipment, less interruptions for nursing staff.
Lessons learnt	Implementation of a standardised equipment storage solution across inpatient wards saves time, money, releases time to patient care.