

Supply Chain Resource Council (SCRC) Report – November 29th, 2021 Meeting

The SCRC brings together health care supply chain leaders and professionals from across the health care field with the goal of understanding the extent and impact supply shortages and disruptions are having in the care setting, as well as capturing and documenting temporary or permanent solutions to these challenges.

Topics of discussion will vary based on the latest information from the field, other sources and information that is shared during the call.

Below are the categories that were discussed, and some of the temporary or permanent solutions these organizations are taking to address these supply shortages and disruptions.

CO2 shortages:

- None of the participants were experiencing shortages or difficulties in securing CO2.

Pediatric supply shortages:

- Several members indicated shortages of baby, toddler and pediatric supplies.
- Baby/Toddlers - Diapers, formula, nipples.
- Peds - small french urine collection catheter sizes (kits - can use a foley and a cup), butterfly needles. Umbilical cord catheters, Cardinal on backorder, substitute product is now on backorder
- Smaller blood draw tubes (see collection tubes).
- Neonate blood pressure cuff size 4, cardiac leads (puppy dog, kitty cat - using smiley face now).
- Sterile water. Also, electrolytes, TPN, and luer lok syringes for use on pumps due to the higher utilization of IV pushes in pediatrics.

Pediatric supply solutions

- Assembling their own urine kits – purchasing individual components; urine specimen cups, sticks, wipes, etc.
- Re-using disposable bp cuffs, move to reusable bp cuffs - conservation strategy.
- Some hospitals are using Dasani (because it is highly filtered) to mix certain formulas, in an effort to reserve sterile water. Evian could potentially be another alternative.

Radio Pharmaceuticals shortages:

- Availability is spotty and based upon regional availability of rare metals.

Vacutainer/blood collection tubes shortages:

- Across the board. BD in general. Varying/rotating products on backorder.

Vacutainer/blood collection tubes solutions:

- Established a Lab hotline for staff to call in their needs. Orders need to be validated by lab - this optimizes distribution. Using EPIC to view orders, manage ordering practices. Questioning blanket panel orders, drilling down into when/why tests are ordered. These practices have helped up move from days of supply to weeks of supply. Diversifying vendors/getting supplies from other sources.
- Every adult was getting a blood draw at 5a. Asking whether every adult needs a blood draw - its no longer automatic.
- Other members utilized similar approaches/conservation strategies.

Aluminum/DME shortages:

- Crutches, walker, canes.

Aluminum/DME solutions:

- Reaching out and asking for donations from employees.

PPE shortages:

- PPE supplies in general are fine. Surgical gloves remain a challenge to source.

PPE solutions:

- Limiting who uses/needs surgical gloves - utilization management.
- No issues since converting to another glove mfg.

Medical Equipment impact due to semiconductor shortages:

- Impacting lead times and construction schedules.
- Sterilizers (Steris). 4-8 week lead time for parts.
- IT - computer/hardware equipment impact.
- RFID boards for two-bin kanban system. On order since May 2021, now tentatively scheduled for Feb 2022.
- RFID tech install - currently a 2-month delay.

Medical Equipment impact due to semiconductor solutions:

- Delays up to 9-12 months. Much more coordination around construction schedules is required.

Product impact due to Resin shortages:

- Suction canisters, sharps containers, soap containers, decontam wipes tubs - wipes available but containers are not. Hand soap, foaming soap dispensers.

Product impact due to Resin solutions:

- Exploring reusable sharps containers.
- Nursing discussing whether they should move to hand soap and wash cloths.

Other items - shortages:

- Exchange transfusion kits - moved to a substitute product.
- 1000+ back orders, varying items, up from ~100 products. Appears to be centered on plastics and glass.
- Spotty pharmaceutical issues (varying) - sterile water, lactated ringers, generic drugs (impact from the delta wave in India).
- Suction compressors for home health/patient discharge.

Other items - solutions:

- Conservation strategies.
- Renting, procuring suction compressors. Diversifying vendors.