Purchasing Tips: Mobile Surgical Carts

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Storage space, locking options and lightweight /easy maneuverability are three very important topics to consider when purchasing mobile surgical carts.

1. The storage options should be versatile. Available space must accommodate the needs of each specialty. Having multiple drawer sizes to choose from and a variety of tray and divider systems helps to keep supplies organized and easily at hand.

2. Depending on the set-up of the OR suite these carts may be moved from room to room for procedures as well as for possible restocking. This brings up the question of the **weight of the cart.** An aluminum cart is 40 percent lighter then a steel cart. The aluminum cart is easier to push, turn and stop, which helps to avoid injuries to patients, visitors, nurses and doctors. In addition, the aluminum cart won't rust.

3. Locking options on the cart are also something to take into consideration. Carts may be holding medications and expensive surgical instruments that need to be locked up. Depending on the use of the cart, think about various locking options. You may want a key lock, a push-button lock or an auto-locking cart (with or without a prox reader). The push-button and the auto-locking carts come with a manual key override to bypass the push-button or electronic system if needed.

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