

TCF Candidate Briefing – Instructions

Background: A major component of Clinical Engineering is to serve as a consultant and technical expert in the acquisition and disposition of medical equipment. In the VA, equipment is “owned” by each group and sub-group of clinical teams which is intended to foster a sense of responsibility for the equipment and provide a smaller piece of the pie to manage. However, this leads to micro-level decision making and individualized planning which can cost the hospital unknown time and resources. Additionally, the lack of global planning can compromise the standard or quality of care afforded to our patients. The VA is required to budget, plan, and execute equipment acquisitions that support the surging need to render medical service to the nations Veterans with efficient, cutting edge, and highly available care that affords the highest standard of healthcare possible. Developing acquisition strategies, providing consultative briefings, and guiding clinical users in the replacement of medical equipment is a critical function performed by Clinical Engineers.

Goal: Brief the executive suite about the purchasing plan, opportunities, priorities, risks, and costs associated with the current infusion pump inventory at Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks (VHSO).

Task Details: Provided is a common data extract from our inventory management system, this is real data from VHSO. Some of the terms are defined in the table below. This is all the inventory data available (real life). Additionally, the Clinical Engineering repair teams maintain repair records of each unit on the inventory. Please work through this list and provide a briefing to the interview board that will help VHSO understand:

- The financial plan for budget management.
- When and what should be replaced and why.
- Are there any opportunities to improve healthcare?
- Any items of concern or potential risk?
- Any other notable information?

Format, Audience, and timing: The format of the briefing is up to the candidate. The audience will be the interview panel members which will represent real life C-suite members such as the CEO, CMO, and CFO. Time allotted for the briefing should not exceed 30 mins, the brevity is otherwise to be determined by the candidate.

Important Terms:

As Seen In Data	What It Means	Notes
VISN 16	Veterans Integrated Service Network 16	Region that covers most of Southeast US
(565) VHSO	(564) is the unique station number for that VA	Health Care System comprised of hospital and several community based outpatient clinics
Service	The group name for the major team faction	
EIL	Equipment Inventory List	Sub-group ownership
Asset#	Unique identifier used in the VA inventory management system	
Equipment Category	Standardized across all VA systems down to the Manufacturer and Model	
Manufacturer	All these are standardized by VA across all VA systems	e.g. Carefusion is always spelled exactly that way
Use Status	Indicates if the unit is in use, lost, stolen, loaned out, turned in, etc.	
Location	Room numbers and building asset might be located at	
Acquisition	Date that unit was entered the electronic inventory	Usually very close to actual purchase date (within 30 days)
Replacement	Date the inventory system auto-generated for when the unit should be replaced	Moderately accurate – however, there are several instances where this date is not reasonable

Assumptions: Contracting law, standing regulations, policy, and executive memorandum need not be investigated nor addressed for this briefing.