

SUCTION CANISTER CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS

Healthcare systems across the nation and the world are experiencing supply chain disruptions and product shortages due to the ongoing influence of COVID-19. Factors such as raw material shortages with subsequent impact on component production, shipping port logjams, freight costs, and more have significantly impacted the availability of critical patient care items and devices in a multitude of categories. Early recognition of potential supply shortages, fully understanding the utilization (where and why) of these products and implementing conservation strategies will support effective management of these products throughout the disruption.



CONSOLIDATION

Consider consolidation of current suction canister stock to one or two central areas for distribution/re-stocking.



END-USER EDUCATION

Engage end-users to understand suction canister utilization, and consider use prioritization to further support conservation efforts.



DISPOSABLE SUCTION UNITS

Disposable suction units are often wall-mounted behind the head of the patient bed. Consider covering these with a plastic bag to be removed only when the canister is used and changing the plastic bag on the unused suction unit when a patient is discharged or transferred from the room.



PROCESS IMPROVEMENT

If the suction canister is used, consider delaying changing out the canister unless full or patient is discharged. In the event the patient is transferred to another room, consider taking the used suction canister with the patient when transferred provided it is no more than half full. Keep the canister upright and ensure all ports and openings are capped to avoid spillage. For those clinical areas (procedure rooms, OR suites, etc.) that utilize multi-suction canister rolling stands, consider reviewing current practices and conservation benefit of limiting number of suction canister units placed in the stand based on anticipated need.



GLASS BOTTLES AS AN ALTERNATE

Glass bottles, if available, may serve as an alternate product for a suction canister, provided they possess a tight seal, contain an adaptor or port for connection to the vacuum (suction) source as well as the suction device/tubing. Glass bottles are designed for re-use and must be thoroughly cleaned/sterilized, to prevent cross-contamination from patient to patient. Please consult the supplier and the IFUs (Instructions for Use) for any glass bottle products under consideration prior to use.

References:

1. <https://medcom.uiowa.edu/theloop/announcements/critical-supply-shortage-suction-containers>
2. https://www.ohiomedical.com/docs/default-source/default-document-library/brochures/sot645-principles-of-vacuum.pdf?sfvrsn=76b5064b_4