

Why Can Hospital Staff Never Find the Devices They Need?



Here are the hidden operational problems behind equipment shortages — and why hospitals keep acquiring equipment they already own.

Frontline view

A nurse needs an IV pump and searches in three supply rooms before giving up and asking the hospital to acquire more.



Operations view

A biomedical technician spends hours trying to find devices that are due for preventative maintenance.



Asset view

The equipment is still in the building. It's just not where anyone expects it to be.



System view

In many hospitals, medical equipment disappears and is tucked away into closets, storage rooms or even staff lockers as staffers adapt to the system they have. Equipment hoarding isn't bad behavior. It's what happens when the system breaks down.



Hospitals may not always lack the equipment they need.
Often, they lack the ability to **see** and **manage** the equipment they already own.

Where does all that equipment go?

When critical equipment is hard to find, hospital staff adapts by keeping it close. Wheelchairs get parked in hallways. IV pumps stay close by after a patient is discharged. Monitors, scanners and SCDs are tucked away in closets or storage areas so they're available when needed.

This solution works for the unit. Across the hospital, it creates a different problem: No one can see where anything is.

Why biomedical teams feel it most

Biomedical teams are responsible for equipment they often can't see. When devices follow patients or move between departments, a new problem emerges: How does the team that's responsible for maintenance, inventory, and compliance keep up? Over time, inventory records become less reliable — and eventually, they become almost completely incorrect.

The loop that keeps repeating

When teams can't find equipment, they assume it's not available. So more gets added.

A request is approved. More devices are acquired, and they enter the hospital system while the original equipment sits somewhere in the building, unused.

Now, there are more devices to manage, but the availability problem hasn't gone away. Inventory grows, but utilization doesn't.

Why this has been difficult to solve

Hospitals have tried to fix this before with real-time location systems that promised better visibility. But early versions of those systems were difficult to deploy, expensive to maintain, and required significant IT support. They showed where devices were, but not how it moved or how it was being used. For many, the return didn't justify the investment — so the problem remained.

A shift in what's possible — and a clearer way forward

That equation is changing as new approaches to equipment visibility are designed **specifically for healthcare environments**. They are easier to set up and manage, and they provide immediate insight into where equipment is and how it's being used over time. The impact is immediate:

1 Less time searching.

2 Higher utilization of existing equipment.

3 Less unnecessary acquisition of inventory.

The result is a system that works like it's supposed to, so hospital staff can focus on what they should be doing: caring for patients.

About TrueSpot Health

TrueSpot Health provides healthcare-focused asset visibility solutions designed to help hospitals reduce time spent searching for equipment, improve utilization and make better use of existing resources, without the complexity of traditional systems.



TRUE SPOT
It Starts with Location...