

Hywel Dda University Health Board

Case Study: Optimising Suture Stock at Prince Philip Hospital

Overview

Following the implementation of SupplyX at Prince Philip Hospital, ICU clinical staff identified excessive stockholding of sutures through stock checks and, following the implementation of Scan for Safety, usage reports. A collaborative review with surgeons revealed opportunities to streamline suture inventory.

Actions Taken

- Suture Rationalisation: Multiple suture types with similar diameters but varying lengths were in stock. To reduce cost and waste, longer sutures were cut to size rather than ordering multiple lengths.
- Range Consolidation: Surgeons agreed to limit suture options to a core range (thin, medium, thick), reducing duplication and standardising usage.
- Needle Optimisation: An assessment of needle stock led to the elimination of seldom-used types, focusing on common or interchangeable tips.
- Tie Reduction: Low-usage surgical ties were removed from stock. Surgeons opted to cut sutures for tying instead of using separate tie products.

Outcomes

- 11 item ranges removed, 576 items in total
- 1,033 fewer units ordered per cycle
- £2,465 worth of stock released back into the service

Conclusion

This initiative, driven by clinical engagement and data from SupplyX, streamlined inventory, reduced waste, and generated significant cost savings without compromising clinical care. If such success can be achieved within this area, it suggests a strong potential for broader benefits if expanded across other areas.

