

Mount Nittany Medical Center

CASE STUDY ♦ NUMBER THREE

In July 2003, Mount Nittany Medical Center, formerly known as Centre Community Hospital, began an extensive interview process of mobile equipment suppliers for their proposed Health Information Medical Record File Room to be located on the basement level of the new 6 million dollar wing.

Active Health Information Records were presently filed in two areas – one site off campus. This situation required additional staffing and numerous trips throughout the day to retrieve records. By consolidating all active records into one area, immediate benefit would be gained in personnel productivity, as well as, the security and confidentiality of all files located in one secured area.



Exceeds consolidation goals through installation of mobile filing system

Initially four mobile equipment suppliers were interviewed as potential vendors for the project. After weeks of extensive meetings, product reviews, site visits, and interviewing key personnel, Avail Business Systems, Inc. was chosen as the vendor of this vast project utilizing *Jeter Systems Corporation EZ Roller Mobile* equipment and *SuperStax* cabinetry. When asked why Avail was chosen, George Petroff, Director of Engineering related that “Mr. Cotchen knew his product and presented it more professionally than the other vendors. We felt as though we were your only customer, and you were responsive to our needs”. Cheryl Jo White, RN, Project Coordinator added that “your product pretty much became the “standard” we measured the other vendors against”.

Philip Cotchen, President of Avail, and Julie Prongay, Director, HIM, worked closely in evaluating multiple design layouts, weighing all aspects including number of aisles, aisle widths, filing sequence, and lighting. Other important areas that needed to be discussed were staging and review areas, and deceased charts. Ms. Prongay stated that “in working with Mr. Cotchen it became very clear that he demonstrated understanding of our needs, and knowledge on which options were the right solution for us”.

The final layout was a well designed filing system that allowed for even growth throughout utilizing 25 carriages, 20 feet in length on two separate systems. The *Jeter EZ Roller* in combination with the *Jeter SuperStax* cabinets, were deemed superior in construction and design on several aspects – 5” single flange solid wheels, the industry’s only true center driven system that offers uniform movement of carriages even at great lengths, a patent chain tension system, maximum file capacity per tier, fixed full height welded dividers and heavy duty pullout reference shelves.

Once the mobile systems were completely installed, Avail personnel took on the challenge to move approximately 60,000 LFI of records (300,000 records) from the two existing locations onto the new system, interfiling each individual record. This project took less than 3 weeks to complete with no interruption to the Health Information Department. “This was a complex task and we experienced no problems in the process” related HIM Director, Julie Prongay.

Mount Nittany now has a superior filing system supported by 22 years of project management and filing expertise – Avail Business Systems, Inc.



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