


Smart Inventory Solutions for Outpatient Healthcare Centers

Make Your Inventory Management Program Work to Your Advantage

AN EBOOK FROM NIXON MEDICAL

NIXON
M E D I C A L
APPAREL & LINEN SERVICE SPECIALISTS





Outpatient facilities spend around 20% of revenue on supplies.¹ That's a lot, and it demonstrates just how important the right inventory levels, solutions, and management are to outpatient centers and staff.

With inventory so critical to a well-run facility and the delivery of quality patient care, it's essential that your inventory program and laundry service cater specifically to your needs, which differ from those of inpatient healthcare centers. Services designed for inpatient healthcare centers or general practices won't necessarily work for you because you have different supply needs, patient volumes, appointment cadences, and cashflow.

Read this eBook to learn what smart medical apparel and linen inventory solutions for outpatient healthcare centers look like, and how they can lead to better care, patient experiences, and savings.

What's Inside

This eBook will focus on specific inventory solutions that benefit outpatient healthcare centers.

Use the contents of this eBook to assess your facility's inventory solutions and implement an effective inventory management program that will benefit your staff, patients, and bottom line.

[**Top Outpatient Inventory Mistakes & Misses**](#)

[**Smart Inventory Solutions for Outpatient Care**](#)

[**Using Inventory Management to Your Advantage**](#)

[**Where to Start? Free Inventory Program Review**](#)

Top Outpatient Inventory Mistakes & Misses

Inventory management is a tedious task that all businesses need to deal with. In busy outpatient healthcare centers, however, it can be an extremely laborious job that practice managers simply don't have time for while managing a revolving door of patients with more urgent and pressing needs.

Practice managers who are still juggling inventory management with other responsibilities often lack holistic oversight across all inventory, creating more work through DIY or on-premise laundering, and using disparate inventory management tools.

Lacking Holistic Oversight or Control Over All Inventory

Trying to oversee all of your medical apparel and linen inventory is a big job that practice managers don't have time for. Improper oversight, however, can lead to scrub loss and disorganization, causing expenses to rise and supplies to be unavailable to clinicians when they need them.

Struggling with On-Premise or DIY Medical Laundering

On-premise or Do-It-Yourself laundry is not only time-consuming and cumbersome but goes against guidelines set forth by the Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council (HLAC), which mandates medical laundry be handled off-site at an accredited facility for the utmost sanitation and safety.

Using Disparate or Manual Inventory Management Tools

Disparate or manual tools, like Excel spreadsheets and separate invoicing programs, are frustrating and inefficient and make inventory management way more time consuming than it needs to be.

Smart Inventory Solutions for Outpatient Care

If you relate to one or all of the mistakes and misses discussed, we empathize with you. We know it can be cumbersome to find and implement new solutions. That's why we rounded up the antidote for each issue to help you assess your options and alleviate your burdens for good.

- » **Centralize and Outsource Your Inventory Management**
- » **Partner with an HLAC-Accredited Laundering Service**
- » **Leverage Helpful Inventory Management Technology**



Centralize and Outsource Your Inventory Management

When you centralize and outsource your inventory management to a third-party provider, you get back more than just time in your day. You get an inventory program that is constantly looked after and updated, ensuring your clinicians have everything they need when they need it while containing costs by reducing or eliminating supplies that fluctuate in demand.

WHAT YOU GET WHEN YOU OUTSOURCE

[Medical Apparel and Linen Inventory Management](#)

[HLAC-Accredited Medical Laundering Services](#)

[Delivery and Pickup on OSHA-Compliant Vehicles](#)

[Folding and Packaging for Tidiness and Sanitation](#)

[Stocking Inventory in the Right Places for Clinicians](#)

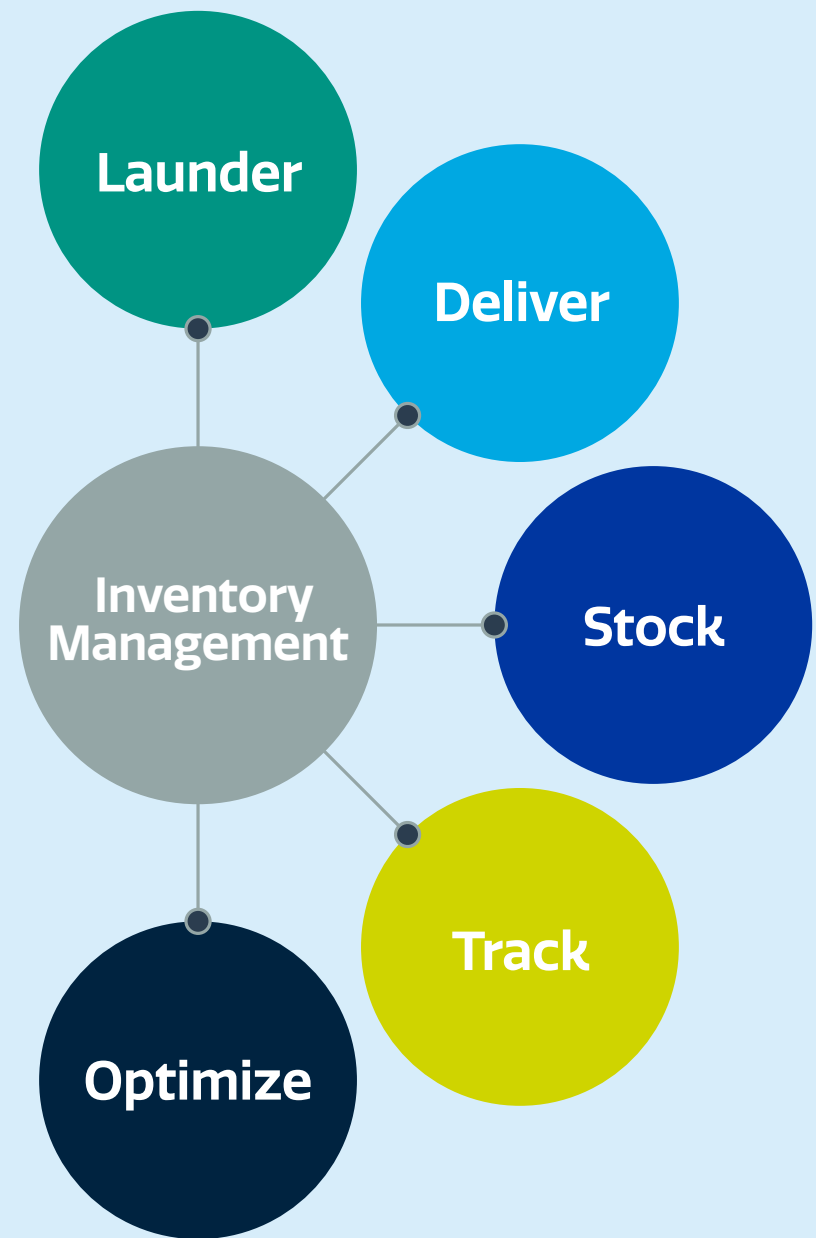
[Tracking Inventory to Prevent Loss and Expenses](#)

[Optimizing Inventory to Ensure the Right Levels](#)

[Invoicing Through a Centralized and Secure Portal](#)

[Cleaning Your Facility to Improve Patient Experience](#)

[Embroidery to Give Your Center a Professional Touch](#)



Partner with an HLAC-Accredited Laundering Service

If you're using DIY or on-premise laundering, it's time to increase your sanitation and safety and rid yourself of laundry burdens by using a Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council (HLAC)-accredited laundering service. If you've decided to outsource your inventory management, your provider likely offers a laundering service—just check to ensure that it's HLAC-accredited. Here's why.

HLAC accreditation means that a laundry service meets HLAC Accreditation Standards, which have been developed based on federal regulations and best industry practices. It affirms that a healthcare laundry organization has passed an inspection of its facility, policies, procedures, and training programs. It also means that soiled products are being laundered at an off-site, accredited facility, and not taken home or laundered on-site, which could put people at risk. **HLAC-accredited laundering:**

- » Meets CDC, OSHA, APIC, & Joint Commission Standards
- » Eliminates Risk of Cross-Contamination
- » Uses State-of-the-Art Laundering Techniques
- » Features Healthcare-Specific Facilities and Delivery Vehicles
- » Provides Clinicians and Patients with Peace of Mind
- » Ensures Maximum Sanitation and Safety of Apparel and Linens



NEED ANOTHER REASON TO OUTSOURCE YOUR MEDICAL LAUNDRY?

The average human launderer can fold and stack about 120 linens by hand per hour.² However, automated folding machines can sort, fold, and stack up to 1,000 pieces of laundry per hour with a single operator.

This savings in both time and labor means fast service and competitive prices.

Leverage Helpful Inventory Management Technology

There are many helpful technologies and tools you or your outsourced provider can use to easily manage and track your medical apparel and linen inventory, including barcode scanning, tracking systems, and scrub dispensing machines. These tools keep your inventory organized, your levels right, and help contain costs by identifying when it's time to replenish or reduce certain stock.

Keep reading to learn about these inventory management technologies that make lost or stolen garments and linens a thing of the past. Instead, every item in your facility is tracked by intelligent inventory management solutions, eliminating the burden of unavailable garments and linens for your clinicians and patients, and therefore, preventing you from repurchasing costly inventory.

BARCODE SCANNING | TRACKING SYSTEMS | SCRUB DISPENSING

BARCODE SCANNING

Intelligent barcode scanning via handheld PDA devices tracks every clean and soiled garment by size, wearer, and finishing method and bills the correct wearer for missing ones. Your outsourced provider can scan and track all your garments each time they visit your facility, saving you money by passing scrub-loss costs onto the appropriate person, and eliminating your need to manually count items.

Beyond those benefits, this method teaches and enforces desired behaviors in your facility.

KEY BENEFITS

- » Save money by passing scrub-loss costs onto the appropriate person
- » Eliminate the time-consuming need to manually count items
- » Coach desired organizational behaviors in your facility

TRACKING SYSTEMS

Sophisticated tracking systems ensure all of your linens, from washcloths to pillowcases, are accounted for every time they come into and go out of your outpatient facility.

KEY BENEFITS

- » Ensure clinicians and patients always have what they need
- » Don't ever worry about missing or lost linens again
- » Set up a tracking system that's unique to your inventory

SCRUB DISPENSING

While barcode scanning and tracking systems are highly effective and common approaches to healthcare inventory management, scrub dispensing machines are increasing in popularity.

These solutions feature authorized access controls, which means only personnel with the access code can obtain scrubs from them. Most dispensing machines also require the return of used scrubs to get clean ones. It helps keep scrubs centralized and available, which increases productivity, while also providing insight into when they were accessed, who they are with, and when they were returned.

KEY BENEFITS

- » Save money from eliminating scrub loss issues and costs
- » Increase productivity by having a centralized solution
- » Gain inventory control through authorized access controls

Using Inventory Management to Your Advantage

Taking time to implement smart inventory management solutions today can provide major, long-term advantages to your outpatient practice for years to come. From improving the patient experience to increasing your bottom line, strong inventory management for outpatient centers is highly advantageous.

- ✔ **Free Up Your Time to Focus on the Patient Experience**
- ✔ **Become Sustainable Through Professional Laundering**
- ✔ **Meet OSHA and CDC Standards With Professional Service**
- ✔ **Operate a Noticeably Tidier and Well-Stocked Practice**
- ✔ **Optimize and Standardize Your Medical Inventory Levels**
- ✔ **Manage Your Budget and Cut Costs from Needless Inventory**
- ✔ **Increase Your Safety, Sanitation, and Peace of Mind**

Where to Start?

We know how busy practice managers of outpatient healthcare centers are. The last thing you have time for is exploring myriad solutions, companies, proposals, and so forth. As medical apparel and linen service specialists since 1967, Nixon Medical understands your challenges just as much as we understand your need to alleviate burdensome inventory management.

In a Free Inventory Program Review, we do all the hard work for you. We will review all the medical apparel and linens you currently have in stock, as well as your patient volumes, and care needs. We will provide you with an easy-to-understand and even easier to implement, Inventory Management Program that will lead to better care, patient experiences, and cost savings.



Get a Free Inventory Program Review

- ✔ Medical Apparel
- ✔ Medical Linens
- ✔ Storage Solutions
- ✔ Laundry Needs
- ✔ Patient Volume
- ✔ Type of Care
- ✔ Service Levels
- ✔ Custom Needs

Contact us for a Free Inventory Program Review or a quote on medical apparel and linens.

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Ready for Your Inventory Management Program to Work to Your Advantage?

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About Nixon Medical

Nixon Medical is a leading service provider of medical apparel and linens serving outpatient healthcare centers nationwide. We provide trusted medical apparel and linen rental services, HLAC-accredited laundering services, expert inventory management, and custom and reliable service.

We are proud of our All About Service™ reputation, and now we are proud to be All About Safety, too, implementing and optimizing all of the safety protocols discussed in this eBook.



All About Service™

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1. 7 Tips for More Effective Inventory Management, Outpatient Surgery
2. Making Sense of Automation, American Laundry News