

# Computer Software for Surgical Case Cart Management

[www.TBJSPD.com](http://www.TBJSPD.com)  
[www.SurgicalCaseCart.com](http://www.SurgicalCaseCart.com)

Case Carts provide a tool for improving the management of supplies.  
A computer software application that can measure, monitor, and provide Case Cart System management tools will deliver *significant* cost savings.

Prior to the purchase of software:

- **define** how the application will be used and for what purpose,
- **develop the requirements** for what your facility will demand from the application. This should be as specific as how the user interface screens can be easily and rapidly understood by your staff.
- **receive *vendor commitments*** for:
  - **Integration with existing enterprise wide systems** i.e. Meditech, Picis\MSM, Lawson
    - The integration of software applications is particularly important as an increasing number of cooperative hospitals migrate into one cost center.
  - non proprietary interface [DOS and/or Windows] real-time, upload-download
  - easy to use templates for communication with in-house software [Word, Excel, Access]
  - **forecast data entry labor** [by vendor and/or FTE] initially and ongoing [this is *NOT* zero]

**DO NOT RELY ON DEMO SOFTWARE** to evaluate the ease-of-use, report generating capabilities, and the ability to integration/interface with in-house enterprise wide applications. **ROLE PLAY THE USE OF THE SUPPORTING HARDWARE** [including handheld scanners and workstation monitors] with representations of the actual case carts, storage shelving, reprocessing equipment, and set-up tables [sterile field] that will be used.

When selecting a computer system, a high priority should be to:

- **minimize time and of labor expenditures *prior to* 'realizing' the benefits.**
- **interface with facility software applications** [import-export or real-time]
  - Materials Management
  - OR scheduling, preference card, Count Sheet
  - Asset Management,

**If the implementation requires excessive data entry *prior to* the facility management and the staff being able to *realize benefits* from the computer system, the implementation may be stalled or delayed.** During implementation, if the immediate staff members involved are encumbered with what ***they perceive as excessive*** data entry, or if they do not *appreciate* how the data entry will benefit their job, there is a *high risk* of impairing the implementation. Low quality data entry and methods to circumvent using the computer system are typical results Benefits should be realized by the facility **administration, managers and the staff members using the software and hardware.** Computer Systems for Closed Case Cart management should not be encumbered with excessive data entry prior to implementation. **The software modules being implemented should be scheduled in a *chronological order* that will deliver the most rapid ROI and *improve the quality of work* for staff and management.**

**The Return on Investment [ROI] expectations should be monitored** and managed to optimize the results. The vendor should assist in providing tools for monitoring and managing the ROI. The software modules implemented should be scheduled in chronological order based on the rate and value of their contribution to the ROI.