

Tap into JCI experts' extensive knowledge and experiences



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**ACTION PLANNING
AFTER EVALUATE** >

**SECURING MEDICATIONS AT
CLINICAL CARE UNITS** >

**PROCUREMENT OF
MEDICATIONS** >

Q1 Now that we have the report from the EVALUATE assessment, what do we do next?



A1 The results of the EVALUATE assessment report will help you understand your organization's strengths and gaps. When you combine the results with your organizational goals, it will help you prioritize what you should focus your attention on.

If achieving JCI accreditation is one of your goals, you can use this to understand if you are ready to consider JCI accreditation or may need to establish stronger foundations in quality and patient safety.

If your focus is on quality improvement and patient safety, the report will help you identify area(s) in the organization that poses the highest risk to patients and staff. If improvements are made, this is the area(s) that you will generate the greatest return on safety.

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Q1 Secure storage of medication is an area identified by the EVALUATE report that we would like to improve on.

Q2 If we lock the medications in a cabinet to keep it secure in a clinical care unit, who should have the key?



A1 There are several ways to balance accessibility and security. Hospital should avoid having a single individual holding the key(s) as this would limit access if that individual were unavailable and nurses would need to locate the individual and the keys. Key(s) should be accounted for at all times.

A2 Ideally, hospital should employ a method that protects medications and allows easy access for the staff that need to obtain the medication. Whatever process is selected to secure medications at the bedside, just make sure the process should be the same throughout the hospital. Appropriate staff should also be educated about the new process.

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Q1 Is there a limit on the number of vendors used for procurement of medications? Is it acceptable to have just a single vendor?

Q2 If we work with another vendor as back up, does this vendor still need to follow the same procurement process?



A1 There is no limit on the number of vendors. However, if only one vendor is used, hospital should make sure a contingency plan(s) is in place in case the vendor is unable to supply the needed medications or supplies. Availability and source of medication is addressed in *Selection & Procurement* under organizational function *Medication Management & Use*.

A2 All of the vendors must adhere to the same procurement criteria including having a contract in place. This is touched on in *Contracts & Supply Chain* under organizational function *Governance & Leadership*.