

BEFORE

AFTER



JAM Session 11:

Corrugated Boxes in the Hospital:

Where Are They NOT Allowed?

Why Cardboard Is a Problem:

Corrugated shipping boxes:

- Shed fibers and dust
- Cannot be disinfected
- Absorb moisture
- Harbor mold spores and pests
- Increase environmental bioburden

Cardboard is a contamination risk in clean and sterile environments.

Standards Supporting This Practice:

- CDC
- AAMI ST79
- USP <797>/<800>
- CMS Conditions of Participation

NOT Allowed In:

Sterile Storage Areas

- Clean supply rooms
- Sterile cores
- Central Sterile (sterile side)
- OR sterile storage
- Procedure room sterile cabinets

Operating & Procedure Rooms

- Operating Rooms
- Endoscopy suites
- Interventional procedure rooms
- Sterile cores

Strongly Discouraged In:

- NICU
- Oncology
- Burn Units
- Transplant Units

Protect vulnerable patients from environmental contamination.

Clean Linen Rooms

- Clean linen storage areas

Pharmacy Clean Areas

- IV compounding rooms
- USP <797> clean rooms
- Anterooms

Where Cardboard IS Allowed:

- Receiving dock
- Supply staging areas
- Temporary transport only

Remove promptly. Do NOT store long-term in patient care areas

JAM Takeaway:

Remove outer shipping cartons before placing supplies into clean or sterile environments.

Protect the environment.

Protect the patient.

Every patient. Every time.