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Why Do I Need an Equipment Planner?

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1.0 Why Do You Need an Equipment Planner?

With over 300 years of combined experience and a resume of over 1,400 projects, Medequip International is the first and the largest medical equipment planner in North America. But what does that mean?

What does a medical equipment planner do? And why, as an Owner, Architect, Engineer, Project Manager, Contractor, do I need to have Medequip International be a part of my construction renovation or expansion project?

A medical equipment planner leads a component of the project that is related to the equipment that goes in the four walls of the new facility. The equipment planner works with all of the aforementioned parties to plan, specify, purchase, and install the equipment for the new facility. From the smallest trash can to the largest imaging equipment, the equipment planner helps the owner make equipment decisions, the architect and engineer complete design, and the contractor keep on the construction schedule.

Why else do you need an equipment planner? Because next to actual construction, a new facility's equipment is the largest investment an owner will make in a project.

If that is the case, it is a good idea to have an equipment planner, who also knows equipment and the facility so well that they help the Owner with equipment that can be re-used and moved, which Medequip International does very well, and equipment that should be discarded or donated.

Medequip International is also expert at patient relocation services as well. We invite you to find out more about that service also. We have many projects and a lot of material on the subject.

2.0 The Path to Success

When should you engage an equipment planner, like Medequip International?

We strongly suggest we engage the project as early as possible such as in schematic design or the master planning phase. Our presence helps to provide some “nuts and bolts” in terms of the design with regard to the equipment. We can all also start to define items that will cause issue with Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing items, which is valuable to the architect and engineer.

What should I do with my existing equipment?

We get that all of the time. We are very good at performing an inventory of all existing equipment. That inventory gets the owner a few valuable things.

1. You get an accurate list of equipment that should/should not move to the new facility.
2. We can start to formulate the true equipment budget. Now that we know what is going and what is not going, we can provide an initial working budget for you.

How does my in-house team fit into this project?

In a planning project, we work with you and not instead of you. We keep you actively engaged in the project to make sure you are informed and involved as much or as little as you want to be.

We are diligent in our project work to make sure that everything we do is for the project. Since all of our work is done separately but in concert with the project schedule and design, you can have constant transparency throughout the project.

That also includes from the user perspective. We provide the information and make recommendations regarding equipment. We also help to provide rationale and clarity for items that perhaps fit into the clinician's goals but perhaps not to the Administration's goals.

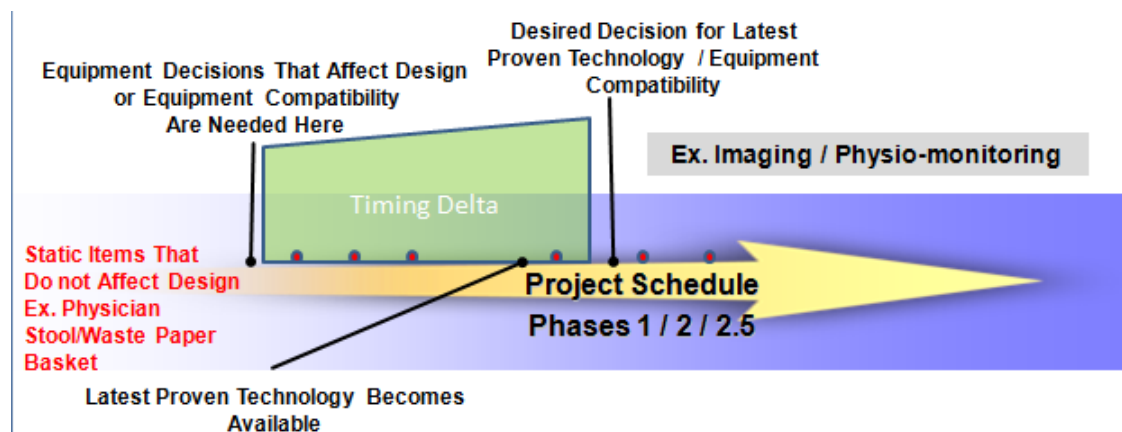
How do I get the latest equipment but maintain the project schedule?

There is no perfect answer for this situation. From a design perspective, one can't in all practicality design a universally adaptable and flexible room to always allow for the "latest and greatest." At the same time, if one always waits for the 'next big thing' to come along in product development, one would never have anything to put in that room. There needs to be strong consideration for major fixed equipment such as Imaging. In terms of fulfilling that imaging solution, we must still adhere to the project schedule. This means that equipment choices must take into account not only the latest proven technology, which the owner may want but how it fits into the schedule, which is what everyone needs.

Second, one needs to consider that a "just in time" purchase for Imaging may need to be over a year in advance so that the design of the facility is accommodated. If the Owner waits too long to obtain the latest proven technology in Imaging, then the design of the facility may be disrupted and thus causes re-work and delay.

The balance must be struck between obtaining the latest proven technology along with and in concert with the project schedule. Once the project schedule is set, then we can look at the equipment choices that would be available to the owner. It works quite well and to everyone's benefit.

Lastly, recognizing early on that there will need to be some compromise will allow everyone to arrive at the optimal conclusion, together.



Why do I care about integration with IT and Relocation of patients and equipment?

One thing that doesn't change about technology...is that it is always changing. This goes for medical equipment. Much like mechanical, electrical, and plumbing considerations, technology considerations that affect design are taken into account as well. We make sure that we are in consult with either the CIO or CTO of the facility to make sure we are in compliance.

The project schedule is the song we all sing to. The notes are no louder than when it involves the relocation of patients and equipment. Do not underestimate this activity. The planning for the relocation should start almost at the same time as the construction project.

3.0 Conclusion

Simply put, when Medequip International is inserted into a project, that project runs better, more efficiently and more effectively.