

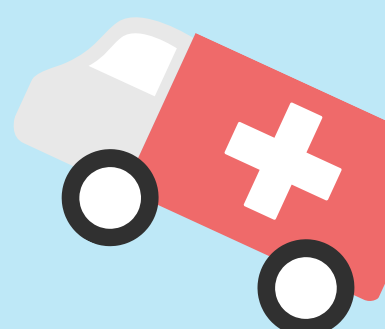
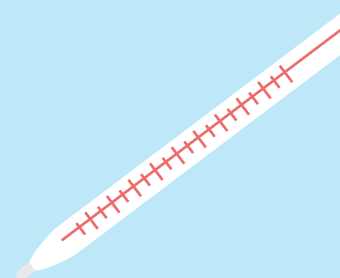
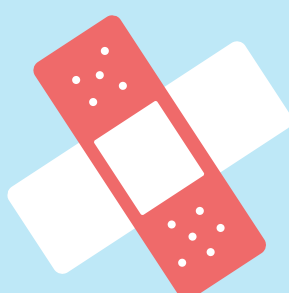
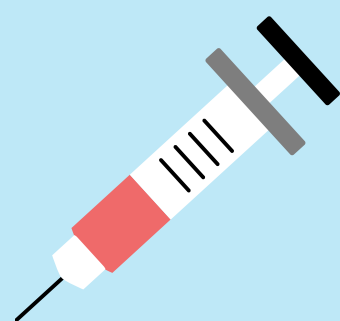


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KEY LEARNINGS FROM HEALTHPACK 2019

Nurses and technicians panel review of medical device packages.

by Don Alip, Sr. Product Manager, Healthcare at Amcor Flexibles North America



1 PRODUCT ACCESSIBILITY

A variety of creative techniques are available to provide safe access to sterile devices. Some are based on professional experience, others on physical build or personal creativity. It's important for packaging engineers to be aware of use variations to simplify product accessibility.

2 FOCUS ON STERILITY

Nurses and technicians operate with a "surgical conscience" when it comes to patient safety. They function as a cohesive team. If one person claims something is non-sterile, no one questions it. Sterility is never argued in the operating room (OR)!

3 INTUITIVE PACKAGING

There appears a preference for intuitive packaging over ergonomic design. Medical devices come in a variety of shapes and sizes, and technicians are tasked with setting up the OR as efficiently as possible. Packaging should be instinctive, leaving little room for speculation of technicians in identifying the best way to present a sterile device.

4 PACKAGING FOR A LEAN TEAM

Nurses prefer to prepare the OR with as few team members as possible. So, peel-open chevron pouches and trays with lids are usually the preferred packaging format because they allow nurses to dump devices onto the sterile field without assistance.

5 PRODUCT VISIBILITY

Technicians value clear packaging that allows them to see the devices. Clear packaging provides an opportunity to develop a strategy for opening and presenting devices aseptically.

6 MORE IS BETTER

There is a general preference for more – not less – packaging to enhance speed and accessibility: pull tabs are often viewed as too small; shallow trays have smaller grip areas; and, peel-able pouches don't have enough space for thumbs. Packaging engineers should aim for the right balance between usability and cost.

7 RECYCLABILITY

Nurses and technicians care about the environment and recognize the volume of clean and reusable packaging generated during procedures.

8 HEADER BAGS?

Header bags are almost universally hated by OR teams for two reasons: (1) they are difficult to open; and (2), releasing devices from their non-sterile, sealed edges is challenging. With ISO 11607 updates requiring medical device manufacturers to perform usability evaluations, packaging engineers will need more collaboration with end-users to ensure compliance with new standards.

Contact Amcor's healthcare specialists to identify packaging solutions that address your end-user needs