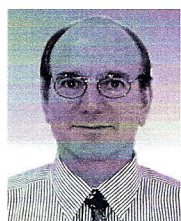


hospitals are developing medical technology management programs that need pertinent information and planning methodology for integrating new equipment into existing operations as well as for optimizing costs of ownership of all equipment.

Clinical engineers can identify technological solutions based on the matching of new medical equipment with the hospital's objectives. They can review their institution's overall technological position, determine strengths and weaknesses, develop equipment-selection criteria, supervise installations, train users, and monitor postprocurement performance to assure the meeting of goals. This program, together with cost-accounting analysis, will objectively guide the capital assets decision-making process. Cost-accounting analysis is a multivariate function that includes determining the amount, based upon a strategic plan and financial resources, of funding to be allocated periodically for medical equipment acquisition and replacement. Often this function works closely with clinical engineering to establish equipment useful life and prioritization of acquisition, upgrade, and replacement of inventory within budget confines and without conducting time-consuming, individual financial capital project evaluations. The clinical engineer's skills and expertise are needed to facilitate the adoption of an objective methodology for implementing the program, thus improving the match between the hospital's needs and budget projections, equipment performance, and cost of ownership. The result of systematic planning and execution is a program that assures the appropriate inventory level at the lowest life-cycle costs at the best performance.



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