

Sustainable Practices

in the maintenance of an Emergency Medical Team (EMT) medicine cache



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Background

- » Maintaining readiness for health emergencies poses challenges for Emergency Medical Team (EMT) warehouses.
- » In 2024, the medicine cache managed by the National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre as part of the self sufficient EMT Type 2 surgical field hospital was valued at \$175,000 AUD.
- » To maintain deployability and minimise waste, medicines are rotated through an affiliated local hospital pharmacy one year prior to expiry. This relationship supports disaster readiness and provides a buffer for the local hospital during medicine shortages.

Purpose

To demonstrate cost savings and reduced medicine waste through regular rotations with the local hospital pharmacy.

Results in 2024

\$127,000 AUD
rotated stock
(73% of cache)

115,276
individual medicines
eg. capsule, injection

\$11,500 AUD
discarded stock

7,768
individual medicines
discarded

MAIN REASONS FOR DISCARD

- » Not stocked by local hospital
- » Low local turnover for timely use
- » Heat-affected medicines that are unable to be reused

Additional sustainable practices

These practices aim to minimise volume, weight and special packaging requirements of transported medicines.

1

Reusable
temperature-
monitored
medicine storage

2

Cache
rationalisation
based on usage
history and
resupply availability

3

Lightweight
medicine
formulations
reduce freight

4

Single daily dose
medicines to
reduce bulk

5

Environmental
friendly medicine
choices, avoiding
cold chain or
dangerous goods
when possible

Method



Conclusion

Sustainable EMT medicine cache management improves environmental and budget outcomes while maintaining quality of care.

