Evaluating the Medical Kit System for the International Space Station
A Paradigm Revisited

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Overview

• Kit history, function
• Additional considerations driving update
• Users
• Implementation of new kits
• Lessons learned
History & Function

• System functions
  – Nominal preventive health care
  – Treatment for minor illness / injury
  – Some advanced life support capability

• Launched in support of ISS Expedition 1
  – Designed to support crew of three for a 6-month mission
  – Designed to be prepared on the ground and resupplied in total on a shuttle with each crew rotation
  – Shuttle program events required real-time change to support paradigm
    • Logistic support via international partner vehicles
    • On-board crew required to do inventory and integration work to keep kits contents up to date and in a known configuration.
Additional Considerations

• Hardware Obsolescence
• Medication Issue
  – Medication no longer available
  – Delivery system obsolete
  – Unable to procure injectable medications in desired packaging
• Adapt design to accommodate multi-country shipping and logistics chain and on-board maintenance by the crew.
• Accommodate addition/deletion/change of hardware in kits
  – Updates to required testing
    • Example Eye equipment
  – Identify and certify COTS hardware where possible as opposed to in-house development.
ISS Medical Kit Users

- 6 Crewmembers on ISS
  - 4 trained as Crew Medical Officers (CMO)
  - CMO
    - Wide spectrum of professional and health system backgrounds
      - IP crew can also be CMO
      - Typical CMO has a technical/engineering background
  - Approximately 25 hours of crew training available to learn CMO role

- In-flight support of CMO duties is augmented with
  - Communication with medical support team
    - (video conference, email, phone)
  - ISS Medical Checklist
    - Provide directive steps in support of routine activities and medical intervention
Defibrillator

Restraint / Electrical Isolation

Ventilator / Oxygen Supplementation

System Components

Personal Protective Equipment
Durable and consumable medical items:

- Medications
- Tools (wound repair, dental)
- Bandaging supplies
- Bladder catheterization items
- IV catheterization
- Physical exam hardware
New ISS Medical Kits

Non-Emergency Medication
1. Convenience Medications
2. Oral Medications
3. Topical & Injectable Medications

Emergency Medication and Hardware
9. Emergency Medical Treatment

Non-Emergency Hardware
4. Medical Diagnostic
5. Minor Treatment
6. Medical Supply
7. IV Supply
8. Physician’s Equipment
Exterior/Interior Softgoods Design

Front

Inside with locator card
Injectable Medications

• Small, consistently sized footprint
• No air in syringe
• Reduced shelf life due to repackaging
Injectable Medications
Crew Efficiency - Ops
Crew Efficiency - Ops

Need image of emer med tx pack here
Crew Efficiency – Resupply

- **Ambulatory Medical Pack (AMP)**
- **Advanced Life Support Pack (ALSP)**
- **Short Shelf-Life Items** (medications, consumables)
Accommodate Hardware Modifications
Miscellaneous Improvements

- NASA syringe
- Syringes
- No latex symbol
- Bandage
- Gasket
Lessons Learned

• Thoroughly define requirements are a challenge to develop
  – All requirements revisions have significant system impacts
  – Huge variability in commercially available equipment
    • Imprecisely worded requirements make capturing the correct equipment difficult.

• Use of commercially acquired goods requires flexibility
  – Kit design
  – Procedures and training

• Think Efficiency when selecting hardware
  – Make items serve multiple purposes

• Communicate
  – Engineering and clinical stakeholders don’t always speak the same language
  – Miscommunication impacts can have broad impacts (procedures, training)
Implementation

• Launched to ISS via a Russian Progress on 30 April
• Planned on-board implementation in June 2011
• Expedition 27/28 will be first users

Miscellaneous
– Rewrote >120 ISS Medical Checklist procedures
– Modified 10 training lesson plans and classes
– >200 unique medical items included in new kits

Questions?
We have no financial relationships to disclose.

We will not discuss off-label use and/or investigational use of medications in this presentation.