



Special PP&P Buyer's Guide: Medication Carts

WHAT KIND OF MEDICATION CART IS BEST for your facility? The answer to this question can be determined by comparing the features available in the three main cart categories – basic, automatic-locking, and automated – against your facility's needs. Use the following tables to review the features, benefits, and other product-class details that can help you determine the type of medication cart that will work best in your health system.

Basic Carts

Typical Features	Benefits	Potential Drawbacks
One bin for each room the cart services Locking narcotics drawer Supply drawer Manual locking mechanism for the entire cart	Easy to maintain Durable Relatively inexpensive	No computerized system for preventing medication errors (It is recommended to use basic carts in conjunction with a bedside medication verification tool to ensure the "five rights" of medication administration.)

Automatic-Locking Carts





Typical Features	Benefits	Potential Drawbacks
Electronic locking mechanism Automatic-locking option can be set at different time intervals Secures user-access with pass codes, magnetic stripe or proximity card readers, or biometric ID mechanisms User-access audit trails	Improved medication control in comparison to basic carts	No on-board bedside medication verification system

Automatic Carts

Typical Features (in addition to automatic-locking cart features)	Benefits	Potential Drawbacks
On-board computer allows caregivers to access patient records and electronically capture patient-care information via the hospital's wireless network On-board bar code scanner allows caregivers to verify "five rights" information	Increased patient safety Increased accuracy of patient-care records Improved charge capture	More expensive than basic and automatic-locking carts Can require more maintenance than basic and automatic-locking carts

So-called hybrid carts, which blend the features of a mobile computing workstation and an automated medication cart, feature patient-specific medication drawers, thereby creating the potential for improved workflow efficiency and patient safety.

Buyer's Guide Key

Cart Type	Symbol
Basic Cart	
Automatic-Locking Cart	
Automated Cart	
Hybrid Cart	

Once you have determined the type of cart that fits your needs, review the specific features offered by each manufacturer as outlined in the following “Medication Cart Buyer’s Guide.” *PP&P*’s buyer’s guide highlights some of the medication carts available today. To request more information on a particular product listed in the guide, circle the corresponding number on *PP&P*’s free reader service card (enclosed in every issue).



◀◀ Armstrong Medical Industries, Inc.

The **Aluminum Auto-Locking Cart** features lightweight aluminum construction, aluminum mounting tracks, stabilizing frame, and 5-inch swivel casters (two with brakes and one with tracking). The cart can be manually or automatically locked, and features an auto-lock timer and a “low battery” indicator light. Users can unlock the cart with an electronic access code, or use a key for manual overrides in emergencies. This cart also features SureSeal Drawers. When within approximately 1 inch of being shut, the SureSeal Drawers close automatically to increase the security of the cart’s contents.

▶ Circle reader service number 3 or visit www.armstrongmedical.com



◀◀ Armstrong Medical’s aluminum **A-SMART Medication Carts** feature a plastic top, soft-grip handles, accessory panels, locking casters, one swivel and one tracking caster, and a stabilizing frame with a bumper. The PAMS-400 contains 40 medication bins and the PAMS-300-T contains 20. Optional accessories include waste containers, side shelves, wire chart holders, glove boxes, sharps brackets, and IV poles.

▶ Circle reader service number 4 or visit www.armstrongmedical.com



◀◀ Artromick International

Artromick’s **Initi Mobile Computing MedServer** melds the features of mobile computing workstations with the security and organization of medication carts. With a compact 18-inch-wide footprint, the maneuverable Initi MedServer features configurable, patient-specific medication drawers with keyless access and automatic relocking capabilities. The Pentium M computing system features all-in-one or thin-client processing through a vivid 17-inch display in either standard or touch-screen models; motorized height adjustment; and an extended-life battery.

▶ Circle reader service number 5 or visit www.artromick.com



◀◀ The **Avalo AC** series of carts are available in automatic-locking and automated models. Choose from 3-, 6, and 10-inch drawers that can be custom-configured, divided, and fitted with an optional narcotic storage lid. The SlotLock security system secures all partially closed drawers and bins left open up to 1 inch. An optional magnetic stripe or bar code scanner may be used as the primary or secondary security requirement to access the cart, and user-access information can be reviewed on the cart’s LCD or downloaded to a PC. Wireless cart security control permits remote lock-system management and administration. Accessories and options include a clear top mat to protect documents and the cart’s work surface, an internal or external waste receptacle, a cart light, and a slide-out writing surface.

▶ Circle reader service number 55 or visit www.artromick.com

CART BUYER'S GUIDE



◀◀ Artromick International

The **Avalo Emergency Cart** series features a keyless lock system, a precision-welded tubular steel frame, high-density end panels, a hard surface top, a stability-control system with spread casters, lightweight drawers, and a variety of optional accessories, including a lidded trash receptacle, a sharps container, and slide-out writing surfaces. The cart is available in standard, intermediate, and compact heights.

▶ Circle reader service number 54 or visit www.artromick.com



◀◀ InterMetro Industries

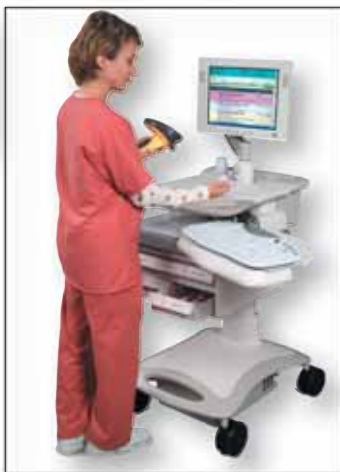
Metro's **computer-ready mobile workstations** include Starsys cart bodies, 5-inch casters (two with brakes), large work surfaces, retractable keyboard trays, convenient mouse holders, electronic locking systems, and 17-inch LCD monitors. The workstations' power solutions have battery run times of up to 15 hours, and internal wire-management systems protect cords from snags and damage. With their configurable designs, the workstations allow users to make adjustments to suit their medication-use process.

▶ Circle reader service number 6 or visit www.metro.com



◀◀ Metro's new **wireless computerized workstations** for point-of-care information exchange and in-room medication administration are fully integrated and ready to use upon delivery. They feature longer-lasting nickel metal hydride power solutions, retractable keyboard trays, convenient mouse holders, and 17-inch LCD monitors. Internal wire-management systems protect cords from snags and damage.

▶ Circle reader service number 7 or visit www.metro.com



◀◀ Lionville Systems

Available in two models, the **iCart** point-of-care cart was developed for mobile computing and bar code medication administration and is available with versatile storage configurations for one to four tiers of storage or patient drawers. Both models are designed to support a variety of hardware, including thin or thick client, laptop, and all-in-one computers. Long-life power solutions are also available.

The iCart combines mobile computing with medication cart security features, including keyless entry, automated relocking, individual patient drawers, and a patented locking system. iCart options include unobstructed workspace, ergonomic height adjustment, articulating keyboard trays with two-way mouse pads, multi-pivot computer arms with VESA adaptors or four laptop-security tray options, highly maneuverable twin-wheel casters, and a variety of storage bins, brackets, and other accessories.

▶ Circle reader service number 8 or visit www.lionville.com



◀◀ MMI Medication Carts, Inc.

The lightweight **Focal** series features a locking narcotics box and sharps container, as well as an optional organizer tray and tilt bin storage system for back-up supplies. Available in three models, Focal series carts can hold up to 750 punch cards and are configurable using card row dividers and sub-dividers.

Programmable for up to 250 users and/or supervisors, the **Focal EMS (Entry Management System)** cart features programmable automated relocking, a low-battery LED indicator, and magnetic strip card or proximity card access options. With an audit trail of up to 1,500 access attempts, the cart also allows users to add, edit, view, and delete users/supervisors with its Windows-based Lockview software. MMI can integrate the cart with a mini-CPU, tablet PC, or laptop to enable the use of EMAR and bedside medication verification programs.

▶ Circle reader service number 11 or visit www.mmimedcarts.com

CART BUYER'S GUIDE



◀ Rubbermaid Medical

Rubbermaid's eMar carts support a variety of medication-delivery systems in acute and long-term care facilities and assist in point-of-care documentation, medication administration, and medication delivery. Specific enhancements to the new line of eMar carts include electronic height adjustment, additional workspace, a digital LCD display, and multiple user-access codes with audit-tracking capabilities. An open architecture, UL-rated power system enables hospitals to choose the technology they want and upgrade it in the future.

▶ Circle reader service number 40 or visit www.rubbermaidmedical.com



◀ S&S MedCart

The Sidekick Mobile Computing Workstation features motorized height adjustment, sturdy handgrips, a 22-by-16-inch work surface, an extended-power battery, and a rotating keyboard tray. In addition, each patient-specific medication drawer has an individual locking mechanism, and the workstation can store up to 2000 user-access codes and provide an audit trail for increased medication control.

▶ Circle reader service number 19 or visit www.medcart.com



Waterloo Healthcare

The Dual-Sided Medication Cart acts like two carts in one. On each side of the cart is a combination of large and small drawers and/or cassettes and bins to hold a variety of medications and supplies. This line comes in three stock models or you can configure a cart to suit your acute or long-term care needs. All carts feature a push handle, extended stabilizer base, tamper-resistant locks, storage shelves, internal waste receptacle, and a removable, replaceable ABS plastic top that includes a cup dispenser. Acute care options include portable lockable cassettes in three sizes that can be outfitted with 3-, 4.5-, or 6-inch patient bins, or bin drawers that can hold seven 3-inch bins per side. Supply drawers and pill card boxes round out the requirements for long-term care medication dispensing. All parts of the cart are latex-free.

▶ Circle reader service number 9 or visit www.waterloohealthcare.com

WHERE TO FIND IT Additional sources for medication carts:

Vendor	Reader Service Number	Website
The Harloff Company, Inc.	21	www.harloff.com
Herman Miller for Healthcare	30	www.hermanmiller.com
InnerSpace Datel	67	www.innerspacecorp.com
Manrex Limited	41	www.manrex.com
Mott Manufacturing Limited	22	www.mott.ca/carts
Rx Systems	66	www.rxsystems.com
United Hospital Supply	65	www.lab-design.com