

Lebanon VAMC

NEWSLETTER



VA Lebanon Leading in Innovation



Dan Hughes, BBA, NREMT, CRCST, CIS, CER, CHL and his Hughes Stow and Seal Heat Sealer Shelf.

In the fast-paced world of healthcare, efficiency and safety are paramount. One product making significant strides in surgical instrument management is the Hughes Stow and Seal Heat Sealer Shelf. Designed to streamline the handling, sterilization, and transport of surgical instruments, this tray is gaining traction as a valuable tool in sterile processing departments across the globe. Its inventor, Daniel Hughes, is the Special Projects Coordinator in the sterile processing service at VA Lebanon Healthcare System.

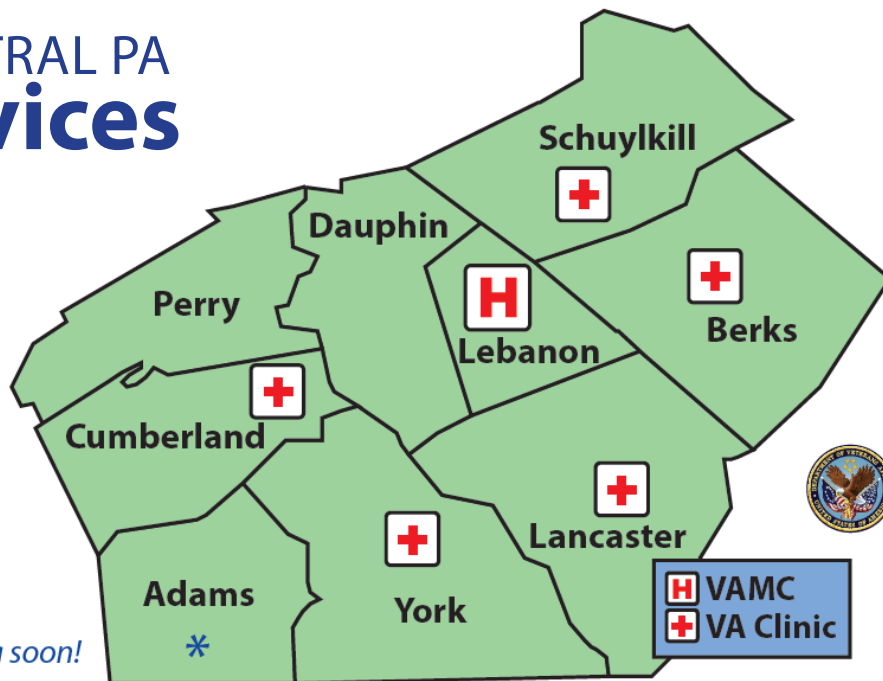
The Hughes Stow and Seal Heat Sealer Shelf is a multi-functional, modular container engineered to simplify the sterilization process. It provides sterilization technicians an out-of-the-way place to store heat sealers which can be immediately moved to a desired height to seal packages before returning it to its stored position. Like the man who brought it to life, this piece of medical equipment is strong, durable, and dependable. It gets the job done. Efficiently and effectively. Nothing flashy but, spend some time using one and you'll wonder how sterilization teams managed before its creation.

The Hughes Stow and Seal Heat Sealer Shelf answered the question, how can we improve efficiency in our operations and increase the usable space on our sterilizing tables? Prior to its conception, technicians had to move to different stations to sterilize and wrap their products. This took time. They had to work around a 20-pound, two feet by two feet heat sealing machine. This reduced efficiency. So, Lebanon VA Medical Center, Chief of Sterile Processing Service, Richard Lambdin challenged his team to address this problem using LEAN concepts. He asked them to improve motion management, eliminate waste, enhance product flow, and identify and deliver value.

One industry expert said, "This is an amazing product. It dramatically improves employee efficiency and productivity. It's more ergonomic for employees and it improves patient safety. Dan is a shining star in our industry. He listens carefully to the input of others, he understands the equipment, he has broad vision, and he is relentless in the pursuit excellence."

Dan's take on all of this is more subdued, "I'm proud to make a mark in our industry. I hope it helps."

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