

Organize Your Home Medical Supplies

Caring for your child and ordering supplies are both easier when home medical supplies are organized. Here are some ideas to help you get started on creating an effective organizing system.

Sort Your Supplies

Look at all your child's supplies, and separate them into categories.

[Picture A] Possible categories include

- How you use the supply (respiratory care, feeding, infusion).
- With which equipment you use the supply (suction machine, feeding pump, ventilator).
- Which product categories you use on the PHS supply order form (paper or online).



Store Your Supplies

After sorting your supplies into categories, plan how to store them.

Containers

- Use containers you already have, for example, recycled boxes or food containers, zip lock bags, covered bins, baskets, drawers.

[Picture B]

- Write the product name, order number, and amount of the item to keep in stock on each container.
- Use zip-lock bags to keep small items clean and visible.
 - Put individual bags with supplies in the same category into a larger container.
- Try a shower caddy or bucket with a handle for holding items you carry between rooms. **[Picture C]**



Location

- Store frequently used items close to where you use them.
 - You may need to divide where you store an item. Keep a small amount near your place of care, and the remainder in your main storage area.
- Store supplies for backup or emergency use separately from where you store those same supplies for regular use.
- Consider space under the bed or on high shelves for less frequently used items. **[Picture D]**
- Consider using fabric or decorative boxes if you need to store items in public view.



Turn Over →

Store Your Supplies [continued]

NOTE!

- Remember to return items you clean for re-use to the storage container for that specific item.
- Use post-it notes when you first label a container. Doing this makes it easier to change your mind about what you want to keep in a container.

Evaluate Your Organization System

Especially when you are starting out, check that your organization system is working well. It is normal for a system to change as you use it. Does your organizing system allow you to

- Keep supplies you frequently use near the place of care?
- Quickly find all the medical supplies you have at home?
- Easily know when and how much of an item you need to order?

For more storage ideas check out:

www.pinterest.com/phskidsthive/supply-storage-ideas-for-medically-complex-patient/