Rainbow Trays

Colour coded Anaesthetic trays

Designed to aid in the reduction of anaesthetic drug misadministration









Designed to aid in the reduction of anaesthetic drug misadministration, the Rainbow Trays™ are colour coded anaesthetic trays for use in operating theatres by anaesthetists supporting the AAGBI and RCoA colour coded critical care labelling system.

The trays provide a safe environment for the transportation, storage and administration of anaesthetic drugs.

The aim of Rainbow Trays™ is to deliver standardised storage of drugs using a tray that incorporates logical progression integrated with the established international colour coding system for critical care drug labelling without interfering with or confining the normal working practice of individual anaesthetists.

Rainbow Trays™ have been designed with the collaboration of anaesthetists, pharmacists and healthcare workers in response to the demands of best practice and clinical governance.



The design has been tested from conception to deliver improvements for a standardised system to store and transport anaesthetic syringes and ampoules in a secure and supportive environment to assist in the reduction of misadministration of drugs in anaesthesia.

The Rainbow Trays™ system comprises three separate trays that allow the anaesthetist to clearly separate routine, local and emergency drugs.



The smaller trays are designed to sit beneath the main tray if desired, both saving space and securing these drugs out of accidental use. The sizes of each colour section have been optimized to account for the most probable use of syringe size thereby allowing all syringes to sit comfortably within the sections and are less likely to be relocated. Designed to comfortably integrate into established working practices, the tray is also ideal as a training aid for new anaesthetists.







Main Tray

Orange HypnoticsBlue Opioids

• Yellow Induction agents Muscle

Red relaxantsSalmon Anti-emetics

• White Misc. including antibiotics

• Red/White Reversal agents

Emergency Tray

Violet VasopressorsGreen Anticholinergic agents

Local Tray

• Grey Local anaesthetics



Rainbow Trays™ comprise two parts; the base tray and insert tray.

The base tray contains the AAGBI and RCoA critical care colours and is intended for multiple use. It is easily cleaned using anti-bacterial wipes or sterilised with ethylene oxide.

The insert tray is for single use only, it sits inside the base to provide the sections for the syringes to sit in. This tray should be discarded after each procedure, thereby maintaining the integrity of the clean environment for syringes and ampoules for each patient. Medication errors are common throughout healthcare and can result in significant human and financial costs. Rainbow Trays™ provide an easy visual check to aid in mitigating many medication errors whilst establishing a logical progression.

Every aspect of Rainbow Trays™ is designed to aid anaesthetists in their daily roles and to help reduce misadministration by supporting best practice and clinical governance.

NHS England recommends that drugs should be colour coded by class according to national and international standards and that workspaces should be organised and tidy with similar or dangerous drugs separated. This issue has been comprehensively addressed by Rainbow Trays™.









"Anaesthetic practice is unique because anaesthetists are personally responsible for all the steps from drug preparation to drug administration, removing many barriers against a medication error that would normally be in place in other healthcare environments." Iain Moppett, Associate Professor & Honorary Consultant Anaesthetist

"Rainbow Trays™ are an innovative but simple product that will make a significant contribution to patient safety in all areas where anaesthesia is delivered."

Leading British Anaesthetist

"Perhaps greater attention is also needed to organizing anaesthetic workspace with attention to detail on where and how the most potentially dangerous drugs are kept and handled."

NAP5 13.42

Rainbow TraysTM have been designed with the collaboration of pharmacists, anaesthetists and healthcare professionals to provide a simple but structured carrier for routine, emergency and local anaesthetics that can comfortably integrate into experienced anaesthetists working practices.











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