

**THE CHALLENGES OF INVENTORY CONTROL  
(A CASE STUDY OF HEALTH INSTITUTIONS IN  
KIAMBUCOUNTY)**

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## ABSTRACT

Supplies management is the process of efficiently integrating manufacturers, suppliers, warehouses and stores so that merchandise is produced and distributed in the right quantities to the right locations, and at the right time in order to minimize system wide costs while satisfying service level requirements. This paper outlines and discusses issues related to inventory management within the healthcare system. In particular the researcher intends to find out how inadequacies in storage facilities, administrative oversight, stock management methods in practice, and availability of skilled employees affect inventory control at a number of targeted health institutions within the County of Kiambu.

First an overview of the background necessitating an investigation into inventory control at healthcare institutions is provided, the research objectives stated and a relevant set of research questions is provided, the research objectives stated, and a relevant set of research question derived. The researcher will give a comprehensive review of stock control in general, with methods and concepts brought out clearly, then a comprehensive guide to the applications of inventory management in healthcare will be given showing a variety of systems uncovered by previous research work in this area. Suggestions will be made as to key areas of improvement in order to reduce overall costs of procurement and supply in healthcare provision. A conceptual framework guiding the researcher's objectives will then be constructed.