

EXPANDABLE

MAY 2021

Everything you need to know before buying a mobile clinic

10 tips to buying a mobile clinic

If you are considering expanding your capacity and making part of your work more flexible, it may be a good investment to supplement the health offer in your region with a mobile clinic. The investment must be profitable for the hospital for many years to come, thus there are a number of things you must take into account before choosing which product best meets your needs.

This buying guide gives you 10 tips on what is important to explore before any tender material is drawn up and the final purchase is made. Ultimately, this ensures that you get the best solution within your budget.

Reasons why you need a mobile clinic

A mobile clinic offers great flexibility and can be moved to places where extra capacity is needed. The clinic can be set up in outlying areas. This provides a good opportunity to reach citizens and patients who live far from the hospital and do not have the opportunity to go to the hospital by themselves.

In addition, the clinic can be built for exactly the healthcare tasks needed and can be parked and set up anywhere. It can be decorated on the outside with foil, which helps to draw attention to the clinic's purpose and gives great advertising value.

There are a wide range of possible uses for mobile clinics. They can be used as e.g. blood donor clinic, vaccination clinic, X-ray, mammography, dialysis, chemotherapy etc.

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1. Define space requirements and use



First of all, you need to identify the very basics. What will the clinic be used for? Is it for one or more healthcare areas? It is a good idea to clarify the basics, because it is of great importance for your space requirements and how you will design the interior of the mobile clinic.

Take into account how much staff it takes to solve the daily tasks and how many patients need to be treated. If many patients have to go through the clinic, it is necessary with a large work area for both patients and staff.

The clinic can be built from 30 to 120m² without extensions or with one, two or three extensions if you need extra space in the clinic.

Tip: Make sure that all internal square meters have a flat floor. This provides better utilization of the space and better working conditions for the staff.

Checklist

- What healthcare tasks does the mobile clinic have to solve?
- How many patients must pass through the clinic per day?
- How much staff is required in the clinic?

2. Think through interior design and room division

How should the square meters be allocated? It is important to think through the entire layout of the mobile clinic in order to have all the necessary rooms included in the solution. Often it will be necessary to have a confidential conversation with the patient in a separate room. This gives both staff and patients a good experience.

Remember that the staff's tasks must be solved as efficiently as in an ordinary clinic. It places great demands on interior design and storage of equipment and aids. For example, there must be room for goods, blood, samples and tests.



Also remember to make good facilities for the staff with a kitchen, wardrobe, and toilet if necessary.

Tip: Choose fittings and furniture that suit the tasks to be solved in the clinic.

Checklist

- How many rooms do you need in the mobile clinic?
- How large should conversation rooms and waiting areas be?
- Is there a need for toilet, kitchen, and laboratory?

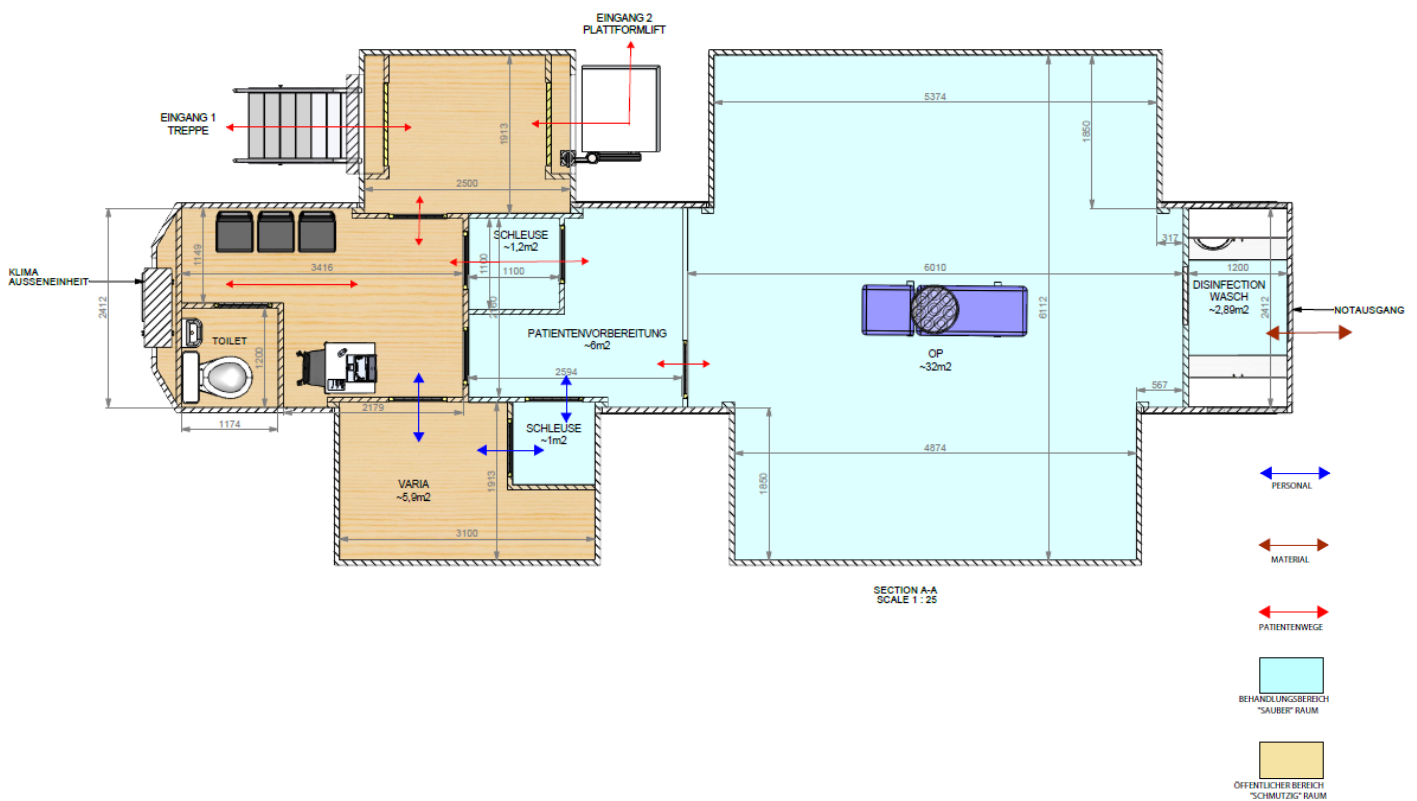
3. Consider the need for work zones and flow

Every square meter must be utilized as good as possible taking both staff and patients into account. Keep an eye on work zones and work flow to give the staff the most optimal working conditions.

It is a good idea to make a sketch of the floor plan, where all necessary zones are included. How much space is required between the patients? Are there requirements for the number of square meters? Write it on the drawing.

This gives the supplier the best conditions for preparing a solution that meets the requirements during the working day.

Tip: Identify hygiene zones and waiting areas as well as the traffic and flow throughout the mobile clinic.



Checklist

- How many beds and chairs do the patients need?
- Do you need different hygiene zones?
- Where should patients and staff enter and exit the clinic?

4. Clarify the outdoor climate the clinic will be used in



The weather is changeable, and there can be a huge difference in weather conditions in which your mobile clinic will be used. If the clinic is operated in Scandinavia, it must be able to withstand large amounts of rain and snow.

If the clinic is not built for these conditions, there will be problems with moisture in the trailer. The roof structures must be made to ensure that water and snow simply run off.

In a cold climate, it is important that the trailer is well insulated to make all functions work despite freezing temperatures.

In the same way, it must be possible to cool down the clinic in warmer conditions. Your trailer must be able to handle outdoor temperatures from -25°C to $+35^{\circ}\text{C}$ and still maintain within the desired interior temperature.

Checklist

- In what temperatures will the trailer operate?
- Is the clinic located in a place with a high risk of rain?
- Request a roof structure that withstands rain and directs water away

5. Ensure good indoor climate and working environment

Today, we have high standards for our working environment and indoor climate. We work better when we feel good. Therefore, the mobile clinic must of course be set up according to the applicable regulations in the area.



Room temperature

The clinic must be insulated to make a comfortable room temperature. It must be able to handle temperatures from -25°C to $+35^{\circ}\text{C}$. This is ensured with built-in water floor heating and air conditioning, which maintains a stable temperature during transport and in operation.



Lightning

Proper lighting helps to provide a better user experience for both patients and staff. LED lighting is the most optimal solution, and it also saves electricity.



Acoustics

Remember to ensure good acoustic solutions in the clinic. Make sure that wall and ceiling panels are made of suitable materials as e.g. DAMPA.



Checklist



Are there sufficient windows and light in the clinic?



Set requirements for sufficient insulation, heating, and airconditioning



Demand acoustic solutions with sound dampening effect on walls and ceilings

6. Think spaciousness and ergonomics

Although the clinic is mobile, it must be as comfortable as a hospital or doctor's clinic. A spacious solution helps to give the patient comfort and security.

In the same way, high demands must be placed on the clinic's ergonomic solutions. The staff must be able to adapt the inventory with e.g. height-adjustable tables, chairs, and beds. In addition, cupboards must be placed where they can be easily reached.

The staff's ergonomic conditions must make it possible to work around the patient without compromising the patient's safety and without the conditions becoming too cramped.



Checklist

- Is there sufficient space around the patient?
- Is there enough space for both work tables and staff?
- Are there good ergonomic solutions for the staff?

7. Request effective cleaning and disinfection solutions

In the healthcare sector, particularly high demands are placed on the cleaning of premises and equipment. Thus, it is important that you also set high standards for the materials in your mobile clinic to make sure that cleaning is effective and complies with the requirements of the health services.



The interior covering on the walls, ceiling, and floor must be smooth and easy to clean, while also being able to withstand disinfectants.

Tip: If you want to disinfect the clinic after the end of the working day various options are available. You can let UV-C panels, UV-C robots or UV-C lighting do the work for you.

Checklist

- Choose surfaces that are easy and quick to clean
- Can your furniture tolerate cleaning agents and disinfectants?
- Choose a disinfection solution such as UVC care disinfection systems that easily and quickly remove viruses and bacteria

8. Demand ISO certifications and green solutions

Many buyers today make demands on suppliers for certifications in both quality and environment. By choosing a supplier who is ISO certified, you ensure that you meet the increasing demands from the outside world.

Today, ISO-9001 and ISO-14001 certifications are a must have for serious suppliers. As a customer, this ensures that both the product quality and the environment are under control. You should also look for an ISO 3834-2 certification, which guarantees that the welding of the chassis is top class. A strong chassis provides a very durable construction.

In the design phase, you also have more opportunities to think in green solutions. You can, for example:

- install solar panels on the sides or roof, which minimizes power consumption and supplies the trailer with power when parked
- use batteries instead of a generator solution for daily operation
- install LED lighting
- use recyclable materials

Tip: Make the green choice. Invest in quality products that have a long life



Checklist

- Demand ISO certifications from your supplier
- Set requirements for green solutions
- Choose a supplier with knowledge about green conversion

9. Choose products with a long life and warranty

Your mobile clinic will last for many years if it is built from the best materials with a long life. Here are a few different things you should be aware of.

If you choose a clinic with an extension to achieve a larger interior area, you must make a number of requirements for the construction of the trailer and the dimensions of the extension tubes.

The extensions will be expanded many times during the life of the trailer. Strong tubes help to ensure that the extensions run smoothly and will not hang. Strong tubes do not become crooked. In addition, you must make requirements to the load-bearing capacity of the extensions, which helps to ensure a long service life of the trailer.

Many manufacturers offer a 1-year warranty on a trailer, but be sure to research the market thoroughly. Some suppliers stand out from the crowd and offer up to a 3-year warranty. This ensures that your clinic will work without problems for many years to come.



Checklist

- Set requirements for construction and dimensioning of trailer and extension tubes
- Make demands on the use of durable materials
- Choose a supplier that offers a long warranty

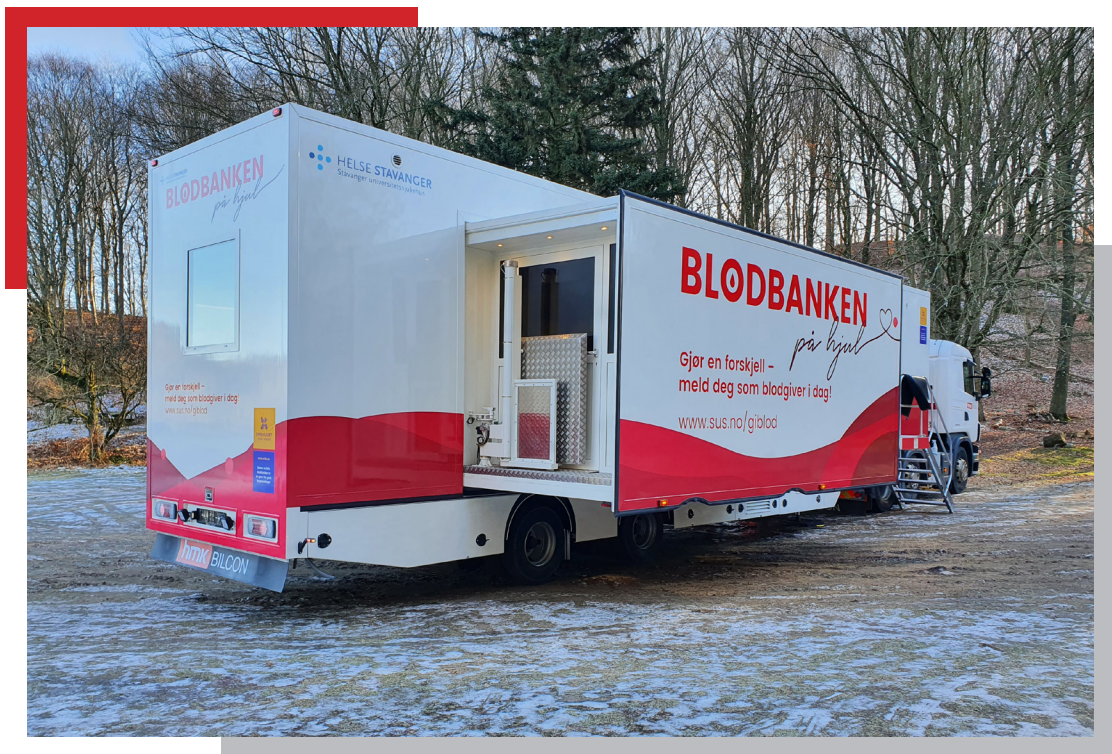
10. Consider transport, set-up and operating time

The mobile clinic takes up the same amount of space on the road as a regular truck or bus. It has good maneuverability and can be parked anywhere a truck or bus can go.

When you go from place to place, all the internal parts of the clinic must be placed where they do not get pinched or damaged in the packed trailer. Locking mechanisms on the foldable parts ensure that e.g. cabinets and doors do not move while driving.

The clinic must be easy to set up and make ready for use by one person. It should not take more than approximately 20 minutes to make the unit ready for use.

Finally, it is important to mention that the clinic must be 100% self-sufficient. Thus, it can be used when the tractor e.g. is away for maintenance. Remember to set requirements for operating time of the clinic, and make sure that it can stand alone without an external power source for 72 hours.



Checklist

- Is your mobile clinic quick to set up for the user?
- Is the clinic 100% self-sufficient?
- Make demands for good transport solutions

11. Bonus:

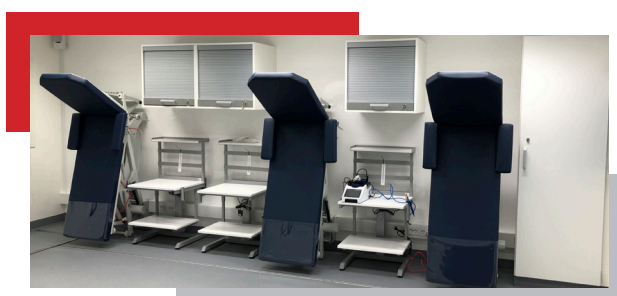
Choose the right equipment

You have now gained 10 tips to some of the most important considerations before your mobile clinic becomes operational.

Although the technical side and construction of the trailer is important, it is of course the human care that is most important. Thus, it is absolutely essential that the clinic is a great workplace for the staff and creates an environment for a safe patient experience.

Go through the list below with some of the things that are most often requested for mobile clinics. Get inspiration for designing your new mobile clinic.

- Solar cells
- Generator/batteries for operation
- LED lighting
- Storage boxes
- Cabinets
- Refrigerator
- Stairs
- Lift for goods
- Antistatic floor with underfloor heating
- Aircondition
- Water tanks
- Waste water tanks
- Wifi
- Internal IT-network
- TV screens
- Sound system
- Toilet
- UVC-light for disinfection
- Handicap entrance



Contact us



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I hope we have inspired you when you want to purchase a new mobile clinic. Reach out to me if you have any further questions.

We would be happy to set up a meeting with you about the possibilities of designing the best solution for your needs.

At HMK Bilcon, we have more than 30 years of experience in designing and constructing mobile health clinics adapted to the national legislation - and adapted to you.

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