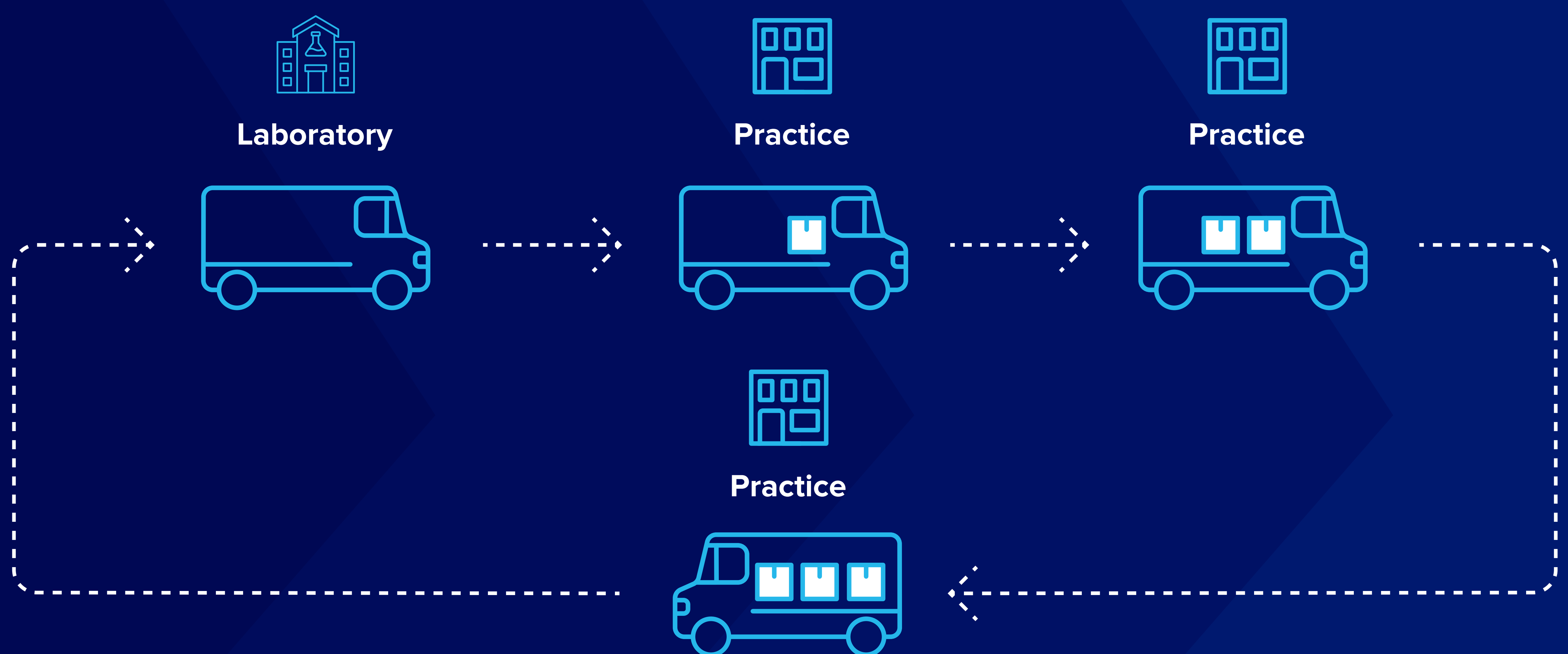


The benefits of milk run logistics for dental and optical laboratories

Milk run logistics involves moving goods on a predetermined route and schedule, so that a supplier can deliver (and potentially gather returns from) a number of destinations on a regular basis.



The milk run



Why call it a milk run?

The term originates from the historical practice of milk delivery. Dairy trucks would follow a regular route to deliver milk to homes and businesses. They would also collect empty bottles from the previous delivery to bring back to the dairy. This method was efficient because it combined both distribution (delivering full milk bottles) and collection (picking up empty bottles) in a single trip.

More smiles with every mile: How a milk run can benefit a dental laboratory



Frequent supply needs: When supplying small, specialized items like crowns, bridges, or denture materials, timely and consistent delivery is ideal for meeting patient treatment schedules.



Consistent handling: If careful handling of goods is required, a logistics provider can ensure processes are established, understood and consistently executed.

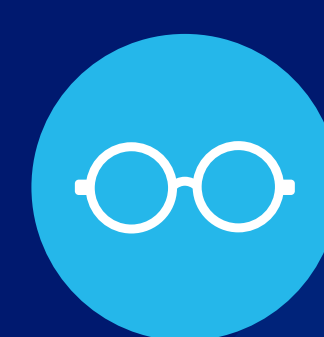


Pick up and return services combined: A milk run can efficiently move goods in both directions, streamlining the workflow by offering a straightforward reverse-logistics solution.



Cost efficiency: Dental labs, especially smaller ones, can benefit from reduced shipping costs due to the consolidation of shipments in a milk run system.

Clarity and precision: Milk run logistics for optical laboratories



See opportunities for efficiency: The milk run strategy exploits the predictability of the movement of goods. The more predictable the supply chain, the more opportunities there are to make efficiency gains.



A quick turnaround just looks good: The eye test has been taken, the frames have been selected, and then the wait begins. Well-scheduled deliveries on a predictable timeframe are good for business.



Better handling for optical merchandise: The predictable repetition of the milk run system makes it easier to develop and maintain controlled transport conditions, minimizing the risk of product damage in transit.



Looks good for the environment too: By consolidating shipments, labs contribute to reducing carbon emissions, aligning business practices with eco-friendly values.

Smart solutions for optical and dental labs

While dental and optical labs have distinct operational needs, there are significant logistical commonalities, and the milk run strategy offers significant potential benefits, from customized routes to reduced environmental impact, and a better customer experience.

Is a milk run the smart solution to your logistics needs?
Call (424) 320-5300 and we'll explore your options.