

Designing and Evaluating the Inpatient Room: An Evidence-Based Toolkit

The inpatient room is arguably the most comprehensively addressed setting in healthcare with a large body of evidence for designers to draw upon. Yet, the “ideal” patient room remains a myth. Although there are unique issues in the design of each new or renovation project, there is a clear need to collate the existing research on inpatient rooms and translate it into an actionable format to help design decision-making.

In 2012, The Center for Health Design (CHD) received a grant from the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) to develop a standard evidence-based tool for inpatient room design. In a three-phase process, this grant will result in design and evaluation tools for inpatient room design in Medical/Surgical Units, Adult Intensive Care Units (ICU) and Labor Delivery Recovery (LDR) and Maternity Units. The first phase of this project has been completed, resulting in a Beta-test, paper-based version of the Inpatient Room Design Checklist and POE tool for the Med/Surg Room which will be shared in this presentation. The two-part tool shared will include a design checklist for the designers to use during the project, and a POE tool for designers to evaluate the project post occupancy.

Learning Objectives

1. Undertake a broad level understanding of the evidence around inpatient room design
2. Learn about the translation of research into actionable tools for designers- during design and post occupancy
3. Gain access to Beta versions of the tools that can be used in your practice now
4. Discuss the proposed link to the Center’s knowledge repository to connect design to research in a dynamic format