

HEALTHCARE

Upper Valley Medical Center
Troy, Ohio



We make
the fiber.
UVMC makes
them well.

- Jim Hurak, Vice President of Patient Care/Facilities at Upper Valley Medical Center (UVMC) in Ohio is so impressed with the benefits of carpet in healthcare environments that he installs carpet in almost every public area of the medical center.

CASE STUDY:

Upper Valley Medical Center
Troy, Ohio



Healthcare

According to Hurak, it's easy to tout the benefits of carpet for healthcare facilities. "Carpet creates a warm and quiet environment with a very sophisticated aesthetic," said Hurak. "It is also easier to achieve a home-like interior in a hospital using carpet."

Hurak recognizes that some facility managers are apprehensive about installing carpet in healthcare facilities because of infection control concerns. However, research shows that carpet needn't be avoided for those reasons. As far back as 1985 in its Guidelines for Handwashing and Hospital Environmental Control, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recognized, "recommendations against use of carpet in patient-care areas have been removed. Since there is no epidemiologic evidence to show that carpet influences the nosocomial infection rate in hospitals, whether to use carpet, therefore, is not considered an infection control issue."¹ More recently, in its 2003 Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health-Care Facilities, CDC further validates the use of carpet in patient-care areas, stating "This guideline... includes no recommendations against the use of carpeting."² The guide makes an exception for prudent maintenance reasons in areas prone to frequent spills or in the highest infection risk patient areas, such as burn units.

Hurak also believes that carpet doesn't contribute to infection control issues. "I have researched this issue and found that studies show carpet actually traps microbes, dust and allergens, making it easy to effectively clean the carpet by vacuuming," he said. "During my more than twenty years at UVMC, I have not read of any studies, nor found any evidence that carpet negatively influences the infection rate in hospitals."

Hurak thinks carpet is easier to clean than hard surface. "From a maintenance perspective, carpet also is easier to clean because it only requires daily vacuuming," said Hurak. "Alternatively, with hard surface flooring, there is an expectation that the floors should shine. Achieving those results requires constant manpower."

Another issue becoming increasingly more important for healthcare facilities is noise control. Quieter environments increase patient satisfaction, accelerate healing, and play a roll in reducing errors by eliminating a degree of distraction to the caregiver. "Carpet is instrumental in creating a quiet environment for patients," said Hurak. "I have seen the benefits of having carpet in non-traditional areas such as the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Carpet adds thermal comfort and helps soften the noise created by the equipment and additional staff needed for the patient's care."

Hurak relied on the medical center's architectural firm, App Architecture, to make specification recommendations for the carpet fiber and style. The interior designer, Charlie Kent, and the architect, Rick Willis, agree that carpet is an ideal choice for healthcare and is often overlooked by many healthcare facility managers. "When compared to hard surface, in our opinion carpet looks cleaner over time, provides comfort underfoot, resists the weight of the wheels from equipment and does not cause safety concerns resulting from the reflectivity of sunlight," said Kent.

To ensure that the carpet style they recommended for UVMC would perform, the project team at App Architecture conducted in-house performance testing. "We put the carpet samples through rigorous testing by grinding stains into the samples to evaluate cleanability and even drove a car

over the samples to test appearance retention and durability," said Kent.

"Based on the results of our performance testing, we recommended 'Sense' by Milliken Contract," said Kent. "We believe specifying a branded carpet fiber such as Antron® nylon offers our clients outstanding performance."

The Milliken Contract carpet style, part of their cXc (Carpet for Extreme Conditions) offering, was the best choice for this project for other reasons. It is manufactured in three foot squares, making installation quick and easy with little disruption to the facility. It was also important to Hurak that the carpet style remain available for several years so they can complete the renovation with the same carpet style. Because 'Sense' features Digital Color Placement technology, Milliken Contract will be able to replicate the style at any time.

*"We believe specifying a branded carpet fiber such as Antron® nylon fiber offers our clients **OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE.**"*

— Charlie Kent, interior designer

Hurak is pleased with how well the carpet is performing. "Since we are located in the Midwest, our carpet is subjected to severe conditions, especially during the winter months when hospital visitors track in snow, slush and rain.

Antron® carpet fiber cleans easily and we haven't encountered any stains that we cannot get out," said Hurak. "Additionally, we have a lot of natural light flowing in our building and we have not noticed any fading. We are confident that the carpet will stay newer looking longer and meet our performance expectations over time."

To learn more, contact your local Antron® Fiber Consultant or visit antron.net.

Information is current at the time of publication and INVISTA does not undertake any duty to update the information. Specifications are subject to change without notice. The optimal performance of any INVISTA product is dependent upon how it is integrated into end use form. Please contact INVISTA for application assistance.

¹ <http://wonder.cdc.gov/wonder/prevguid/p0000412/p0000412.asp>

² http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/pdf/guidelines/Enviro_guide_03.pdf