

SRMC Introduces “Wellness” Rooms

New Patient Rooms Are the Future of the Health-Care Industry

THE CRITICAL CARE UNIT AT SUMNER Regional Medical Center now includes three new “wellness” rooms that are designed to elevate patient care and minimize the risk of injury. The rooms feature the latest in healthcare design and safety, including rounded corners on major objects, secure furniture, strategically placed handles and remotely operated TVs and blinds.

The rooms were designed by Wellness Environments, a company in Nashville providing integrated solutions for health care. Although the rooms are retrofitted with the new wellness design, portions of the walls can still be rearranged, and panels are removable in case of damage.

The rooms integrate comfort with technology. For example, vibrantly glowing light boxes are positioned on walls and on the ceiling over patient beds. These light boxes showcase nature photography donated by local photographer Bob Dulany. These same lighted pictures flip up and double as X-ray viewing boxes.

The patient beds used in the wellness rooms are designed by HillRom and feature the latest safety designs in tangle-free safety rails and air mattresses that help reduce pressure sores. “Nurses can literally glide the new beds down the hallway with one finger,

making them easier and safer for one person to handle,” says Kim Knight, Nurse Manager for Telemetry and CCU.



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Because patients in CCU rooms need to be monitored vigilantly, a camera is located in the ceiling of the new wellness rooms, allowing nurses to observe from their stations. Visitors’ furniture includes a five-person couch that folds out into a twin sleeper. A corner armoire with lighted shelving and a TV unit is an efficient use of space for patient clothes and necessities. Because patient calls are often prompted by the need to shut blinds, turn off a TV or lower the lights, visitors now have remote access to all three.

One of the three new wellness rooms is also outfitted to meet ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act) specifications, providing a wider bathroom with seated shower, railings and a lowered vanity.

The rooms are a preview of what the SRHS planning department hopes to develop when larger additions are made to SRMC, says Bruce James, SRMC Administrator. “As we move toward adding to our hospital, this is a concept that will improve our quality of care,” James says.