



White Paper:

# PARKLAND HEALTH & HOSPITAL SYSTEM. Evidence-based Design Drivers & Flooring Performance Goals



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The new Parkland Hospital, located in Dallas, Texas, opened in August of 2015. As a Pebble Project partner with The Center for Health Design (CHD), Parkland was the first public hospital to base decisions about the built-environment with an evidence-based design (EBD) strategy as the guiding principle. According to CHD evidence-based design is defined as “the process of basing decisions about the built-environment on credible research to achieve the best possible outcomes.”

The design team, acknowledging the link between the physical environment and patient and staff outcomes, implemented the EBD strategy into a meaningful and financially sound design and construction plan.



*“Rubber is a great fit for healthcare, as it does not require the same kind of maintenance that you have for some of the vinyl products; it is wax free,” says Robyn Roleofs, Senior Interior Designer at HDR+Corgan.*



**What is Pebble Project:** Part incubator, part accelerator, it is a unique and dynamic collective where forward thinkers share their knowledge, goals, questions, and challenges. Healthcare organizations, architects, designers and industry partners work with The Center to improve patient and caregiver safety, clinical outcomes, environmental performance and operational efficiency. To support and validate the design decision-making process, while expert guidance encourages a visionary spirit of collaborative change.

#### Facility design can:

- Improve the quality of care for patients
- Attract more patients
- Recruit and retain staff
- Enhance operational efficiency and productivity

## Proven strategies

The team identified five proven strategies to create an environment of care that incorporates streamlined processes, new technologies, and nurturing design elements. Those strategies consist of:

- Improve patient safety
- Improve patient outcomes
- Increase patient, family, and staff satisfaction
- Improve efficiency and effectiveness of staff
- Accommodate today’s best practices, with flexibility to adapt to the future

These five conditions helped define the various interior flooring materials that were provided for mock-ups and product testing. After extensive testing methods, nora® premium rubber was selected for the new building; the hospital chose noraplan environcare™. Installing more than 750,000 square feet of flooring in corridors, labs, pharmacies, staff areas, radiology and nurseries.

#### Key Advantages:

- Flooring won't have to be replaced for decades, supporting a sustainable facility
- A no-wax maintenance routine saves time and reduces possible disruption
- Enhanced stain resistance withstands common chemicals
- Acoustic benefits have a positive impact on patient healing and communication with staff

## Flooring performance goals

In 2012, The Center for Health Design identified eight performance characteristics that define the impact flooring has on operations, health, safety and wellness. The study used an evidence-based design approach, to define how flooring can contribute to the following performance improvement goals:

1. Reduce slips, trips and falls
2. Reduce patient and staff injuries associated with falls
3. Reduce noise levels
4. Reduce staff fatigue
5. Reduce surface contamination and potential risk of Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI)
6. Improve Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)
7. Improve patient and family satisfaction
8. Represent the best return on investment



*Robyn Roleofs, Senior Interior Designer at HDR+Corgan says, "It is also naturally antimicrobial and is quieter than a lot of our other floors. Acoustic control and sound transmission are hugely important to help patients heal faster."*

#### References:

- [https://www.healthdesign.org/sites/default/files/chd\\_achieving\\_ebd\\_goals\\_through\\_flooring\\_\\_design\\_final.pdf](https://www.healthdesign.org/sites/default/files/chd_achieving_ebd_goals_through_flooring__design_final.pdf)  
 Nanda, U., Malone, E., and Joseph, A. (2012). Achieving EBD Goals through Flooring Selection & Design. Concord, CA: The Center for Health Design.  
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