



CASE STUDY

Methodist Mansfield Medical Center NICU

Mansfield, TX | Architect: Perkins & Will

Products Installed

- Strait Rx — 3,000 SF *in Sea Grass*
- Infinity Rx — 4,200 SF *in Mochaccino*

Project Needs

- Ergonomics
- Acoustics
- Updated design to coordinate with existing facility materials and adjacent Women's Services look and feel

Product Benefits

- Safe
- Easy to Clean
- Durable

Methodist Mansfield NICU Flooring Benefits Patients and Staff

Background

Methodist Mansfield Medical Center in Mansfield, TX has a full service maternity center, including a licensed Level II Neonatal Center, featuring some of the latest family-centric design, amenities, and technology. In 2018, the hospital started a \$8.7 million expansion and renovation of its existing 8-bed Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), adding 8 additional private rooms, family amenities, a state of the art infant security system, and dedicated respiratory and lactation support spaces. The phased expansion and renovation project will enhance Methodist Mansfield's commitment to superior clinical care for obstetric services, including high-risk mother and premature babies.

Whitney Hendrickson, RN, CHID, EDAC, LEED AP ID+C, Interior Designer III, Associate with Perkins & Will knew exactly what type of flooring she wanted to specify for this project. After going on a tour of Pennsylvania Presbyterian Hospital in Philadelphia, PA in 2017, Hendrickson fell in love with ECOsurfaces' Rx Collection.

"Since I toured that facility, I've been waiting to use Rx for the right project," said Hendrickson. "As soon as we walked into that unit (an ICU), it was so eerie because it was unexpectedly quiet. My eyes and ears did not match up! I thought they must not have had many patients... but they did! You could see staff moving around, carts being pushed down the corridors, but I didn't hear what I normally hear in an ICU. It didn't feel "clinical" at all! In a good way." That is because Hendrickson was experiencing the acoustic benefits of vinyl Rx surfacing.

Challenge

In addition to its acoustic benefits, Hendrickson also wanted a surface that would support staff. Prior to becoming a certified interior designer and serving as a Board Member for the Nursing Institute of Healthcare Design (NIHD), Hendrickson's first career was as a pediatric nurse for bone-marrow transplants. "Being a nurse is physically labor-intensive and exhausting and hard on your body," said Hendrickson. "I was too young to have plantar fasciitis, and throbbing knee pain. Clinicians are wired to put the patient first, so on long shifts the opportunities for respite are few and far between. I'll never forget my roots, and what a physical toll your body takes when working at the bedside."

That experience led Hendrickson to serving on the NIHD Board, an organization's whose mission is to engage and integrate clinical expertise into the planning and design of healthcare environments. With advocacy at her core, Hendrickson wanted to look at the environment holistically, and select materials that could provide ergonomic benefits to staff too.



Solution

Hendrickson worked with Thais Pimentel, LEED AP ID+C, Interior Designer II with Perkins and Will to specify Strait Rx and Infinity Rx for the Methodist Mansfield NICU. Since the staff wanted a modern design that wasn't too "heavy", the abstract visual was a perfect solution. Both engineered surfaces from ECOsurfaces' Rx Collection feature patented itsTRU™ technology, whereby vinyl is fusion bonded to a vulcanized composition rubber backing. The result is two bonded surfaces that, in addition to significantly reducing surface-generated noise, provide a force reduction of 11.5 percent and energy restitution of 72 percent. This enhanced ergonomic performance also reduces the force of impact related to falls. Additionally, Pimentel specified Strait Rx and Infinity Rx in a subtle curved pattern, to assist with wayfinding and help delineate staff and family areas.

Results

"If they only get 15 minutes to sit down, I want to give these users a floor that's going to let their body perform like an athlete's would," said Hendrickson. "These staff members are standing up to 13 hours each day; so, if I can't change their workload, I want to at least help them take better care of themselves – even if they don't know it!"

Hendrickson and Pimentel are thrilled with the outcome of the surfacing in the NICU at Methodist Mansfield Medical Center and look forward to seeing the second phase of the NICU open in Summer 2020. "I'd love to see the Rx Collection grow even more in the future. "This product is the right solution for a lot of environments," said Hendrickson.