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Shared Spaces

Focus and Telehealth Rooms



FUNCTION

Focus rooms provide employees with a quiet, distraction-free environment that enhances concentration, boosts productivity, and fosters innovation. These rooms offer privacy, allowing employees to take virtual calls, hold small (1-2 person) meetings, or do focused work.

A telehealth room enables remote healthcare. It ensures confidentiality and minimizes distractions. The room is shared by several users with one person using the space at a time, maintaining a secure environment for the user and patient.

Focus and telehealth rooms share several features, particularly in their design and purpose. Both create a private environment: focus rooms enable individuals to concentrate without distractions, while telehealth rooms ensure confidentiality for patient-provider interactions. It is important to consider acoustics when designing these spaces.



SPATIAL COMPONENTS

- Telehealth rooms, focus rooms, and offices have similar square footage. Ensure the space is adaptable to change to another room type when needed.
- Provide sufficient furniture solutions in telehealth rooms for storage within the space.



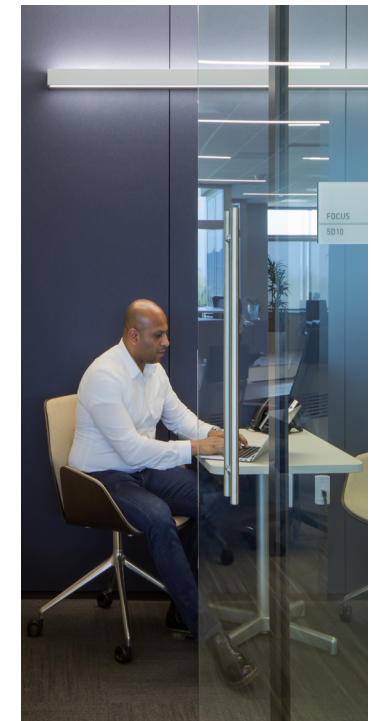
EXPERIENTIAL QUALITY

Design for privacy

- Include elements that satisfy visual privacy needs.
- Use thoughtful design layouts to ensure all components of the room work together to avoid those passing by reading information on the computer screens.

Promote wellness

- If program allows, natural light from exterior windows can enrich mood and focus. Natural light has been shown to boost well-being, creativity, and reduce stress.
- With access to natural light, consider outdoor views when laying out furniture to increase the user's connection to nature.



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MATERIALITY

- Use materials that are easily cleaned and disinfected.
- Specify red-list free, sustainable materials.

Floor

- Install durable flooring that can withstand both renovations and time. Depending on the program's needs, options like tiled carpet or resilient flooring may be used.
- Tiled carpeting can help dampen sound and provide comfort underfoot.
- Resilient flooring is preferred in high traffic healthcare settings, and near food and beverage areas.

Wall

- Consider accent paints. Avoid colors and patterns that hinder focus and creativity. Colors should create a soothing environment for sustained concentration.
- Frosted or laminated glass offers privacy, an open feel, and serves as a room availability indicator.
- Include acoustical panels in telehealth rooms for added acoustical privacy.

Ceiling

- Distribute light fixtures to provide ample light to the room.
- Acoustic ceiling tiles can help reduce noise reverberation.



LESSONS LEARNED

- Ensure heat transfer and glare are reduced with window treatments, like roller shades, following the building standards.
- Interior glass partitions permit light and sound transfer. Consider the acoustic implications of glass barriers.
- Evaluate how the reflectivity and color of the ceiling material affects lighting glare.
- Implement adequate power and data with cable management to keep cables organized and out of sight.
- Consider quantity and location of electrical and data outlets to support conversion to office or other functions.
- As appropriate for the program, consider deck-to-deck walls and other strategies, such as sound masking systems and construction detailing, to provide acoustic privacy.

