

# 4 Trends in Healthcare Design Affecting Furnishings

## and the Corresponding Products from Stance Healthcare

### Introduction

Research into healthcare facilities indicates that layout, design and structure can improve both patient outcomes and the retention of staff. Studies have determined that design can facilitate healing, reduce hospital-acquired infections, enhance visitor comfort and increase employee productivity resulting in a more effective hospital environment.

The purpose of this document is to review recent trends in healthcare design and how they are affecting furnishings. For each trend the corresponding solutions from Stance Healthcare are described.

### Trend 1 | Patient-Centric Design

Healthcare facilities are shifting design to focus on the patient's comfort. The objective is to create a therapeutic space that feels less institutional and more like home. In this effort, healthcare is emulating the example set by the hospitality industry. The initiative has come to be known as creating residential warmth. In the context of furniture, it means incorporating matching furniture collections, flexible furniture and a sophisticated color palette. Plus, spaces must also be inviting to family and visitors.

### Stance Products – Trend 1

In response to the trend toward patient-centric design, Stance offers multiple collections of matching patient room furniture and products that enhance the comfort and utility of furniture through flexibility. Stance has also developed compact, easy-to-use solutions for accommodating an overnight guest.

#### Patient Room Furniture Collections

- Five collections of matching case goods available in warm woodgrain finishes and contemporary styling
- Patient room furniture collections include bedside tables, dressers, wardrobes
- Several lines include matching desk, TV Unit, wall mirror or head and footboards for a residential ambience
- Overbed tabletops can be specified to match the wood finish of the case goods

#### Flexible Furniture

- Oasis Recliner is patient room seating, and with optional features can also serve as a treatment recliner
- Kite Folding Chair has a small footprint and can be hung on an optional wall bracket, when not in use

- Vista II high-back patient chair can be specified with a flex-back option which facilitates a soothing rocking motion
- Designers can choose from a vast selection and color palette of graded-in fabrics and vinyls

#### Accommodating Visitors and Family

- Oasis Side Sleeper is a convertible chair that opens to the side to create a sleeping surface
- Sleeper can be specified to open to the left or right to conserve space
- Optional storage drawer is useful for an overnight guest
- Stance Day Bed offers seating by day and a sleeping surface at night plus ample storage

### Trend 2 | Reducing Hospital Acquired Infections

Increasingly, healthcare design is concentrated on minimizing hospital-acquired infections. In the U.S. it is estimated that 10% of patients or 2 million patients per year acquire a hospital infection, with an annual cost in the billions of dollars.

Furniture can have a large impact on reducing infection rates. Furniture that is easy to clean and disinfect is vital. Healthcare furniture manufacturers are challenged to create products that minimize risk for healthcare facilities without compromising on style or residential appeal.

### Stance Products – Trend 2

Stance designs and builds healthcare-specific furniture only. We have addressed the issues of clean-ability and infection-resistance by observing industry standards and offering a broad selection of metal-framed seating. And we assist cleaning staff by making key products easy to move.

- Stance offers 5 collections of metal-framed seating and tables, which have a higher tolerance for harsh cleaning compounds and are more infection-resistant than wood
- Portability promotes clean-ability, and the Oasis Sleeper and Kindred Bedside Table are equipped with locking casters so that a cleaning person can reposition them with ease
- All seating can be specified with polyurethane arms or arm caps
- Seating is designed with ample clean-out spacing between seat and back
- Designers can select from a vast selection of durable, cleanable healthcare-grade vinyl upholstery or graded-in anti-microbial fabrics

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### Trend 3 | Design with Bariatric Patients in Mind

Obesity among North Americans has reached a stage where healthcare facilities must address the issue from the perspective of design. According to a study conducted by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in the U.S. in 2011-12, 34.9% of adults and 16.9% of children ages 2-19 were obese. The number of obese children ages 2-5 exceeded one-in-ten. Over the past 35 years, obesity rates have more than doubled and childhood obesity rates have tripled since 1980.

#### Stance Products – Trend 3

- All Stance patient room and waiting area seating collections include a bariatric version
- Weight ratings range from 500 to 750lbs, depending on the line
- Bariatric seat widths range from 26" to 30", depending on the line

### Trend 4 | Better Design for Mental Health

According to the Canadian Mental Health Association, 20% of the population will experience some form of mental illness in their lifetime. Suicide accounts for 24% of all deaths among 15-24 year olds and 16% among 25-44 year olds. And a recent act of the U.S. Congress requires insurance companies to cover mental illness in the same way it does any physical health concern. As a result, hospital stays for the treatment of mental illness are growing longer. All of these factors have combined to force the healthcare industry to address issues around the treatment of patients suffering from a mental illness.

#### Stance Products – Trend 4

Heavy-duty seating, case goods and tables from Stance were developed in consultation with a psychiatric facility for safety and durability. But caregivers and designers also advised us that furniture for behavioral health applications must promote the goals of therapy. As a result, our products are designed with residential appeal to reinforce, not undermine, the self-esteem of the patient.

- Heavy-duty behavioral health seating, case goods and tables developed in consultation with a psychiatric facility for safety, durability and residential appeal
- For safety, lounge and guest seating is designed with tamper-resistant fasteners, hidden upholstery staples, added weight, non-removable cushions and glides
- HD tables with added weight are available in two base styles: trumpet and disc
- Drum tables in our standard laminate finishes are internally weighted
- Bedside tables, dressers, wardrobes, desks can be specified with non-removable drawers or open fixed shelves

- Platform bed options include stainless steel restraint loops and storage
- Wardrobe features a piano hinge for added durability, a sloped top to eliminate a hiding place and the safety of a j-bar rather than the traditional rod

### About | Stance Healthcare

Stance Healthcare was founded as a manufacturer of healthcare-specific furniture, and it remains our sole focus. Our goal is to build attractive and practical furniture for demanding, 24/7 environments. Stance delivers dependable products because our designs account for all users. So, in addition to comfort and utility, our products also address the vital considerations of maintaining and cleaning furniture. Stance adds portability, functionality and modularity to our furniture to make it easier to use and to increase the effectiveness of those who use it. We arrive at these designs through consultation with end-users and interior designers. In fact, Stance is distinguished in the industry by our willingness and ability to customize our products to meet the challenges of specific projects. It is that consultation that fuels our ongoing commitment to innovation.

Stance Healthcare, Inc.  
275 Shoemaker Street  
Kitchener, Ontario, Canada  
N2E 3B3

Phone: 877-395-2623

Fax: 877-395-6270

Email: [sales@stancehealthcare.com](mailto:sales@stancehealthcare.com)