



ANCHORAGE IN HEALTHCARE ENVIRONMENTS

Why a Full Gut and Reno Might Not Create the Flexibility You Think

Renovations within healthcare are common. With changes to codes, equipment, best practices and care-based needs, these facilities quickly become the building equivalent of the ship of Theseus, renovated so many times that you could argue it isn't really the same building anymore.

In the healthcare environment, a full gut does not carry with it the promise of a clean slate for your renovation – and many spaces are not as future-flexible as you might imagine.

YOUR SHIP IS ANCHORED

When you have existing anchorage in the ceiling of a hospital (for pipes, ceiling supports, lights, etc.) new anchors need to be a minimum distance away from those existing anchors. In spaces that have been renovated previously, this starts to become a problem.

Finding room for new anchors far enough away from the old ones is a common dilemma in healthcare facilities, particularly in spaces where multiple renovations have occurred, but weren't planned a few steps in advance.

Often, clients find their options for tomorrow can be severely limited by anchor clearances. So what's to be done? Unfortunately, once a space has been remodeled so many times without future consideration, your choices for equipment placement may become limited.



In this image, tape around each existing anchor defines how far away a new anchor would need to be placed to move equipment, as well as lines showing the rebar that must be avoided.

THE BEST SOLUTIONS ARE PREVENTION

Planning Ahead

Use thorough analysis, documentation, and testing of existing anchorage systems so they can be re-used, and plan for the future renovations that will be needed.

New Construction

In new construction, using Verco deck that can accommodate badger no-drill anchors – these are ideal for hospital use as they can be installed without drilling and the noise and disruption that causes. At John Muir Health in Walnut Creek, CA, this solution allowed the HED team to renovate the space below the NICU without disturbing the medically fragile infants.

When opening a new hospital building, it's a safe bet that you are going to be initiating your first renovation to that building very soon. Continual improvements to best practices, technology, and regulatory changes in the medical industry, coupled with lengthy construction periods, often combine to require these renovations to newly opened healthcare facilities. While setting up this inevitable architectural game of chess, you need to be thinking two moves ahead, all while accepting random new pieces added midstream to the proverbial chess board.



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