



GLOBALCARE PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS: ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE

Backgrounder

The following examples of seating, tables and furniture systems, selected from the GlobalCare product line-up, demonstrate how GlobalCare furniture helps improve the quality of life for hospital patients, extended-care residents, their visitors and housekeeping staff.

At-Eez lounge/sleeper chair:

Children's hospitals and other health-care environments where family visits take place typically install daybeds in a corner of the patient's room. To work as a bed, the unit has to be fairly deep, which compromises its usefulness as seating. Visitors have to slouch back to lean against the bolsters. As well, a typical daybed takes up an enormous amount of real estate for a piece of dedicated hospital furniture that only gets intermittent use.

GlobalCare's At-Eez lounge/sleeper chair is a stylish lounge chair that converts instantly into sleeping accommodation. In its lounge position, At-Eez uses only one-third the space of a daybed. Unlike a daybed, At-Eez can be moved where it is needed. Eight double wheel casters provide easy mobility; the locking feature positions At-Eez in place.

In the lounge position, a storage compartment for blankets, sheets and pillows is accessible under the seat cushion. The steel storage drawer is self-draining for ease of cleaning and infection control. A recessed loop pull is located at the top of the chair back for easy conversion into a sleeper.

Chapter armchair:

Chapter, a contemporary-style lounge series with wood arm caps, would not look out of place in a home or a hotel lobby setting. However, the scale is subtly different. Seat depth is shallower, seat height is lower and the lower lumbar area is firmer than with regular, residential lounge seating. These features allow an elderly patient, who may have lost height in later years, to sit comfortably with feet planted firmly on the floor.

The seat cushion has a smooth, radiused, waterfall edge instead of the traditional boxy cushion with piping. Piping gives a sharp edge that causes pressure in the hollow at the back of the knee. This impedes circulation to the lower leg, giving rise to the sensation of “pins and needles.” Piping also acts as a catchall, breeding bacteria.

A regular residential couch contains numerous concealed catchalls, beginning with the decking under the seat cushions, consisting of coils tied together that provide support for the cushions. Global eliminated the coil decking and, in effect, inserted it inside the cushion.

The cushion structure, a picture-frame assembly of wood and elasticized webbing, provides the support of traditional coil decking. The cushion contains four inches of ultracell foam and a layer of fibrefill that provides a softer edge and superior upholstery detailing. The cushion’s nonmetallic zipper won’t rust when exposed to moisture. Velcro fasteners hold the cushions in place (loose cushions sliding around in a health-care environment are not advisable).

With the seat cushions removed, the lower part of the unit is completely open to the floor. There are no coils or other catchalls to impede drips or spills from reaching the floor. The wooden frame is sealed, enabling cleaning staff to sponge off the inner surfaces.

In seating, armrests are usually the area that gets the worst wear. Fabric-covered armrests invariably become greasy from the build-up of oil from fingers and palms. To that end,

Chapter arms have a natural maple, cherry or walnut cap that allows the furniture to age more gracefully. The wood cap also provides a flat surface for resting a bottle or drink.

Interlock bariatric seating:

“Bariatric” was not a widely used term 10 years ago. Patients have gotten substantially heavier since then and now every hospital is purchasing bariatric chairs. Regular seating is about 27 inches wide and rated to accommodate 250 pounds. A bariatric chair is 30 inches wide and accommodates 400 to 800 pounds.

GlobalCare’s bariatric chairs are not one-offs, but variants of a seating series. For instance, the Interlock series is available in modules of one, two and three seats, and medium back, high back and bariatric modules. This ensures that the bariatric chair blends in aesthetically with the adjacent seating. A large person won’t feel stigmatized by choosing the bariatric seat.

Bariatric chairs are also multi-use. They are an attractive option for breastfeeding mothers or mothers with small children who are frightened and want the support of a loving parent.

Patient Room Furniture System:

GlobalCare has a version of its award-winning Patient Room Furniture System that hangs on the wall and installs without the need for structural modifications. By staying off the floor, it makes the room easier to clean and facilitates the movement of equipment. This may not seem important to an able-bodied person, but it improves the quality of life for the patient.

For example, patients with an IV [intravenous solution] drip are wary of walking about because they worry that the wheels of the IV pole will catch on a furniture leg and the cord will pull out of their arm. Such patients have no such fears when they are in an area outfitted with the Patient Room Furniture System because there are no furniture legs for the pole’s wheels to bump into.

Corners are radiused; handles are generous. Drawers and cupboards have a generous reveal that performs several functions. It provides ventilation of the contents, which matters if the contents are soiled. It allows staff to make a quick visual check of contents without opening the door. It acts as a handle that unusually tall or short patients, or those with reduced motor skills, can open easily. There are no protruding pulls or knobs to bump into and provide hiding places for dirt. Finishes include an anti-microbial catalytic epoxy, for easy cleaning, in a variety of colours.

Components attach to a full-width or concealed rail; they can be easily removed and reconfigured. A mobile bedside table and over-bed table complement the wall-hung system to provide a total patient-room solution.

Tablet dining table:

Meals are the social highlight of the day for extended-care residents. Foursomes meet at breakfast, lunch and dinner. Eventually, one member of the group may have to use a wheelchair. Typically, the wheelchair won't fit under the table because it is too high. And the wheelchair's foot supports will bump the table legs or the ankles of the diners to the left and right. The wheelchair-bound member will find it too difficult to dine with the others. This person will lose contact with the group, which can be demoralizing.

Alternatives to the standard, four-legged square table that could accommodate three regular chairs and a wheelchair tend to be either impractical or prohibitively expensive. Hydraulic-lift tables are costly. Tables with a crank or a height-adjustable column (after the fashion of a weight-stack on a gym machine) are inconvenient for caregivers. A pedestal table, with one central support and no perimeter legs, is unstable.

Our solution is the Tablet Dining Table. The table top stands an additional 1½ inches taller than the standard 29 inches so that the wheelchair can slide under it. The companion tablet clips on to the edge of the table, extending the top surface and supporting the weight of a food tray.

Additional clip-on tablets will enable other group members to move on to wheelchairs while maintaining their meal-time get-togethers.

York Flexback:

York Series seating features a flexback design that permits a safe motion-furniture alternative to the popular glider seat on hinged brackets. Glider chairs can injure fingers if a patient reaches for the Kleenex or package of crackers stashed between the cushion and the seat frame. The York Flexback allows the back to “float.” The frame’s spring tension creates the rocking motion while providing comfort and good lumbar support.

GlobalCare, a division of Toronto-based Global Group, is a premier international designer, manufacturer and marketer of hospital and long-term care furniture in the value market segment. Together with office seating and systems furniture from Global Contract, GlobalCare provides a total facilities furniture solution, from patient rooms and lounges to nursing stations and private offices. Visit us at www.globaltotaloffice.com

Contacts:

Lonna Yorg-Turner

The Global Group

416-661-3660x4327

lonna@globaltotaloffice.com