

# Furniture

## GENERAL INFORMATION

- All furniture should be constructed in a way that permits cleaning of all surfaces
- The size, shape and design of the furniture must allow easy access to cleaning staff

## RISK LEVELS

- Vinyl is required for furnishings in high risk areas
  - High level of risk applies to any area specifically used by patients/residents (i.e. patient rooms, waiting rooms) and any area where a healthcare worker goes after providing direct patient care (e.g. nursing station, staff lounge, report area, conference rooms, offices within patient care areas)
- Durable, cleanable fabrics are appropriate in low risk areas
  - Low level of risk applies to any office areas where staff are not providing direct patient care, or return to after providing direct patient care

## FABRIC

- Fabric must be impermeable to water, stain resistant and made of a material that does not promote the growth of microorganisms
- The material should be durable, easily cleaned and withstand cleaning with institutional cleaning/disinfecting solutions. Their selection should be based on an understanding of the principles of decontamination and maintenance requirements (e.g. able to withstand multiple application of diluted disinfectants over time)
- Limit the amount of pleating in fabric and make sure the seams are sealed
- There should be limited off-gassing from the fabric

# Furniture (continued)

## OTHER MATERIALS

- Plastic laminate furniture offer good designs and realistic wood grain patterns. Another option combines polyurethane sealed woods on vertical surfaces with solid surfacing on horizontal surfaces
- The purchasing of new wood furniture is not recommended. Existing wood furniture must be assessed regularly to assure that the finish remains sealed (note: wood furniture requires regular maintenance to keep lacquer intact)

***Please Note: The above criteria apply to all clinical areas throughout the healthcare system – patient rooms, waiting rooms, unit offices (i.e. social worker, coordinator, manager), nurses' station, staff rooms and conference rooms. Fabric, if desired, is acceptable in administrative/executive offices and related meeting areas.***