

## Case Study

# UW Health



### Details

Location: Madison, WI

Products Installed:

Forest Rx (Oiled Oak) – 5,400 SF  
Infinity Rx (Honey Beige) – 4,680 SF  
Strait Rx (Sea Grass) – 3,420 SF

### Project Needs

- Acoustics
- Safety
- Ergonomics

### Product Benefits

- Aesthetically Pleasing
- Sustainable
- Durable
- Easy to Clean

# Ecore is the Ideal Remedy for Neuro Intensive Care Unit

UW Health's University Hospital in Madison, Wis., sought to reduce noise and improve the patient and staff experience in its newly renovated, 18-bed Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit (Neuro ICU). An ergonomic healthcare surface provided the solution.

University Hospital features a Level One adult and pediatric Trauma Center, American College of Surgeons-verified Burn Center, Organ Transplant programs, one of the nation's first certified comprehensive Stroke Centers and the UW Carbone Cancer Center. UW Health is an integrated health system at the University of Wisconsin-Madison serving more than 600,000 patients each year.

According to Ardis Hutchins, AIA, IIDA, CHID, EDAC, a licensed architect and registered interior designer with UW Health, noise reduction to improve HCAHP scores was a high priority

"We are a teaching research hospital, so we have many groups of people in the corridors and going into rooms, which creates added noise," said Hutchins. "We experienced flooring failures with the old LVT product installed in the area. It delaminated over time."

Kate Bautista, LEED AP, NCIDQ, associate vice president of HGA Architects and Engineers, was selected as the lead interior designer on the project.

To make the remodeled inpatient unit a more quiet, calm, healing environment, hospital decision-makers conducted research to identify the most appropriate flooring. "Making the right selection on flooring is really critical in areas that are occupied 24/7," said Hutchins. "We were interested in Ecore's Forest Rx product, because of its acoustic properties and resilient design."

"When it comes to patient safety in the healthcare setting, acoustics and falls are among the top issues to address," added Bautista. "Slip resistance, footfall noise and comfort underfoot then become the factors to consider when selecting flooring."

Hutchins and the team requested and reviewed background research from Ecore on its flooring line, which included touring other Ecore Rx product installations at the Mayo Hospital in Sparta, Wis., and Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Md.

The second phase of the assessment included extensive in-house testing. A mockup was used to assess cleanability, waterjet cutting, heat welding, patching, push/pull of heavy equipment and static load indentation recovery.

During the design and evaluation process, the hospital also considered feedback from patients and families. "We met with

representatives from the Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC) on several occasions to show them the product, present test results, and to make some design adjustments based on their aesthetic preferences."

With testing and evaluation complete, UW Health decided to install products from Ecore Commercial Flooring's Rx Collection

The team chose Forest Rx in oiled oak, a wood grain look for patient rooms. For a more modern look in the corridors, a combination of the Infinity Rx in honey beige and Strait Rx in sea grass was selected. "The soothing, tonal nature of the flooring acts as a timeless backdrop to the modern design," said Bautista. In total, the installations covered 13,500 SF.

"All of the feedback we've gotten so far on this particular unit has been really positive," said Hutchins. "Everyone really likes the floor with regard to comfort, and ergonomically it's definitely less stress on people's knees. The unit is very quiet, too, even with noisy shoes like heels."

