

MENTAL HEALTH: The changing perception of mental health and the need for better furniture solutions

"We all have mental health, just as we all have physical health. Mental health is more than the absence of mental illness. It's a state of wellbeing."

- CAMH (*Canadian Mental Health Association*)

Mental health issues no longer carry the negative stigma that for centuries caused individuals to deny their symptoms, cast aside their pain and live in fear of discovery.

Mental health is facing new challenges, new demographics and new demands. Society is accepting that people have difficulty seeking help or guidance for 'unseen' pain. Major effort and dollars are being spent to get individuals to come forward, to show them that they are not alone, and that ill mental health can be managed and treated.

The result is more people are seeking help and support. The healthcare system is responding by developing more resources. Resources, in the form of out-patient and in-patient care, have in turn placed new demands on furniture solutions.

Since its inception, Globalcare continues to work with mental health professionals to determine the most critical challenges and concerns when supporting this population. Through the identification of the issues, the best solutions become the focus of Globalcare furniture development.

RISING TO THE CHALLENGE: Globalcare responds with mental health furniture solutions

MENTAL HEALTH FURNITURE ISSUES	GLOBALCARE'S RESPONSE
<p>Stigma - Furniture solutions should offer the same visual aesthetics as other furniture solutions. Patients and families want to feel accepted and comfortable with their surroundings.</p>	<p>Globalcare's approach to manufacturing products for use in mental health settings is to work with the client to select product within the Globalcare offering, removing the 'stigma' of selecting a product that is 'different'.</p> <p>Globalcare will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with the client to identify the product that best suits their furniture plan. 2. Work with the client to identify the product enhancements to ensure it is right for the application.
<p>Safety - Furniture solutions must offer safety to the patients, families and caregivers.</p>	<p>Globalcare has identified several options that can be applied to the product on their own or in any combination to ensure safety is addressed (specific to the application.)</p>
<p>Durability - Furniture solutions must withstand the rigors of use, ensuring the finishes are appropriate to the setting.</p>	<p>Globalcare product development has established very strict standards for all products introduced as part of the Globalcare offering.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Only high density and high resilient bio foam is used. This foam meets the CAL117 Fire Standard. b) All products are developed with consideration for clean out and accessibility for cleaning and disinfecting practices. c) Education is provided to help determine the best textile solution for the application - not all are suitable for every application. d) Construction details such as arms with egress grip, absolute stability, metal-to-metal fasteners and superior quality joint connections are integral to the use of the product.
<p>One size fits all - Is not possible as each facility will have unique challenges and the furniture solution must be able to address those differences.</p>	<p>Globalcare understands the need and desire to utilise products that aesthetically and visually reflect products used in other applications. To achieve this, the client can select from Globalcare's full product offering. Products selected and determined appropriate for use in a mental health unit are then customized according to specific requirements identified for the application. This approach ensures each opportunity is addressed in direct relation to the requirement.</p>
<p>Infection control and housekeeping practices - Furniture solutions must take into consideration the practices in place for cleaning and disinfecting, and the demands this will place on the finishes provided.</p>	<p>All Globalcare products are built with infection control and housekeeping in mind. Consultation and assistance is provided to determine the best finish selection and product solution.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Globalcare showrooms across Canada are available to view product. b) Select products are available for on-site evaluation. c) A detailed review of options and choices ensure an informed decision can be made based on all available options.
<p>Maintenance - Furniture solutions should allow for on-site repair as much as possible as full replacement is not often possible within the furniture budget.</p>	<p>Globalcare understands and appreciates the need for building product for the intended use and to meet the performance expectations of the client. This is taken into consideration during the product development phase. Should requirements dictate that additional considerations be addressed, Globalcare works to modify products according to the identified demands. The goal is to provide product that can be managed and maintained throughout the intended life cycle. What is possible for maintaining the product and knowing what components are replaceable is addressed during the evaluation process. This ensures that the appropriateness of each product selected is determined in advance of the purchase.</p>

Why Globalcare for mental health furniture?

Globalcare mental health furniture - finding the right product that aesthetically pleases the client and offers the specialized functionality required for this unique market. Based on the selection and the application, the client will determine, from a range of solutions, which options are required to make the product right for them.

OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:

Active Fire Barrier

Active fire barrier is a textile with fire retardant properties. The fire retardant lining is applied like lining on a suit between the upholstery cover and foam. This provides additional protection in the event of a fire. Active fire barrier lining must be specified when CAL TB 133 fire rating is required.

Additional Weight

For unique and demanding challenges in behavioural health facilities, products are weighted to reduce the ease of movement or lifting product to use as a weapon. The product selection and application identified will assist in determining the amount of additional weight required. Weighted product is designed for facilities looking to create safe and secure environments, while ensuring the furniture can withstand intensive use. To determine the amount of additional weight to be added to a product, contact your Global representative.

Bed Bug Resistant

Due to an increase in the presence of bed bugs within healthcare facilities, solutions have been developed to deal with the bed bug issue. The product design directly affects the level of resistance that can be achieved. For more detailed information, contact your Global representative.

Contrabandproof

Contrabandproof is the finishing of a product to ensure all surfaces are sealed allowing no access to the interior of the product. This ensures drugs and weapons (for self-harm or for harming others) cannot be concealed in the product without cutting the fabric, which will enable a caregiver to identify a potential threat. For more detailed information and to assist with product selection, contact your Global representative.

High Density Ultracell Bio Foam

High density Ultracell bio foam is a non-allergenic foam manufactured from natural seed-based oils such as soybean. It significantly decreases the dependence on fossil fuels like petroleum and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. The high density of the foam provides comfortable sitting for many years before any sagging or indents appear underneath upholstery. Simply, there is more material available to allow for enhanced performance.

Moisture Barrier

Moisture barrier is a textile lining with moisture repellent qualities. Moisture barrier lining is applied on the seat cushion between the upholstery cover and foam to protect any form of moisture from getting to the foam. It is recommended when the fabric being used does not have moisture repellent qualities or when additional protection from penetration of moisture is desired.

Moisture and Tamper Resistant Zipper

Moisture and tamper resistant zippers are available as part of the solution when requesting bed bug resistant furniture and contrabandproof solutions. In addition, this special zipper prevents liquid and moisture seepage through the zipper teeth, providing additional peace of mind. For more detailed information based on the product selection, contact your Global representative.

Sealed

Sealed refers to the process of finishing the underside of a product to ensure no potential openings from the textile surface to the product interior. The sealed solution is requested for achieving higher levels of infection prevention control for the product being ordered. For more detailed information and to determine if the sealed process is required on a particular product selection, contact your Global representative.

MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES AND FURNITURE SOLUTIONS



Sealed Seams

The heat sealed seams process involves sealing the back of a seam with a specially designed tape. Sealing the seam increases the integrity of the seam reducing the likelihood of seams opening over time. This tape provides additional protection against moisture seepage and prevents insects from entering the product through the stitch holes and seams. The sealing of seams requires testing the textile to ensure acceptance of the heat sealed tape for performance and aesthetics. For detailed instructions on textile testing and approval, contact your Global representative. The cost for sealed seams will be determined by Global Customer Service based on: (a) seat cushion only or (b) all seams sealed.

Tamperproof

Tamperproof fasteners (TPF) can be requested for a higher level of safety. Using TPF ensure the fasteners cannot be interfered with, changed, opened or removed without use of a special tool. This will prevent the tampering with, or disassembly of the product which could lead to injuries or unsuspecting harm to others. For more detailed information contact your Global representative.

GLOBALCARE ALLOWS YOU TO SELECT THE RIGHT PRODUCT, WITH THE RIGHT FEATURES, WITH THE RIGHT OPTIONS, TO MAKE IT RIGHT FOR USE IN MENTAL HEALTH SETTINGS.