

Northern General Hospital

Vistamatic® vision panels are specified for the new Cystic Fibrosis ward at Northern General Hospital in Sheffield

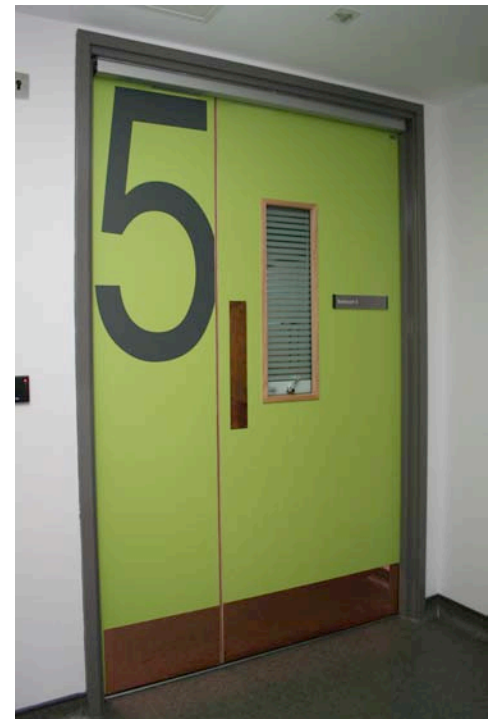
The Cystic Fibrosis Ward at Northern General Hospital, managed by the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, has been relocated and refurbished. The new vibrantly colored, twelve bed ward designed by Race Cottam Associates has the feel of a boutique hotel, rather than a hospital and features secure vision panels as an integral part of the refurbishment.

The ward has been designed to make the days of enforced isolation and treatment as enjoyable as possible as patients can need hospital treatment for up to two weeks at a time, several times a year. Each room reflects a different theme, ranging from a New York loft to an Oriental garden and the ward now has high tech computer and audio equipment donated by the builders, BAM Construction.

Fifteen Vistamatic® vision panels have been installed on the ward. The twelve patient rooms, the ward gym and the two treatment rooms all have Vistamatic® panels. The vision panels serve a number of purposes, benefitting both staff and patients.

Cystic Fibrosis (CF) patients need their own rooms and cannot mix with other patients because of the risk of infection. Being able to observe patients discreetly through a vision panel without opening the door greatly reduces the risk of spreading germs.

In addition, being able to monitor patients without disturbing them preserves patient dignity. While regular observation is essential, nursing staff commented that their decision to go into the room is based on what they see through the vision panel. From a patient's perspective, they are not unnecessarily disturbed, which again complements the designed environment. The panels can be operated from either side of the door, meaning that when a procedure is in progress, or the patient wants privacy, the vision panels can be closed.



Patients with CF need regular treatments and tests. The installation of Vistamatic® vision panels to the two treatment rooms on the ward ensures that medical procedures are conducted in privacy. The closed vision panel indicates to anyone outside the room that a treatment is in progress and prevents treatment being disrupted. This is particularly important as CF patients are very susceptible to infections, particularly from other CF patients.

Exercise forms an important part of treating CF and can also help boost the patient's immune system and mental attitude. There is a gym on the ward, but nursing staff need to be able to check on patients. The installation of a vision panel on the gym door ensures that staff can discreetly monitor patients while also giving patients the option of exercising in privacy. Again, the closed vision panel indicates that the gym is in use.

Aesthetically, the vision panels fit in well with the modern ward design and the wooden panel surrounds create a warm, homely effect. The glass panels reflect the vibrant colours featured throughout the ward, creating a bright and open environment. The ward, which caters for patients over the age of 16 with Cystic Fibrosis (CF), opened functionally on 26th June 2010, but will have its official opening later this year. The project looks sure to provide and sustain future proof care to patients with Cystic Fibrosis (CF) and will act as a benchmark for other Health Trusts.

“The Cystic Fibrosis unit represents innovative and creative design utilizing best practice, best materials and best design concepts all to embrace the needs of young CF patients; Vistamatic® has added form, function and value to the project, blending well with the high tech nature of the healthcare facility”

Mark Hattersley

Capital Projects Director, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

