

A Good Start From the Ground Up

Hospital construction projects take many experts to ensure the new facility will meet the needs of the owners and their patients. Architects, administration, equipment planners, and clinicians are typically part of this team. Biomedical equipment technicians (BMETs) and clinical engineers (CEs) should also be part of this team to ensure the correct equipment is specified for the project. Your expertise in the proper selection and installation of medical equipment is very valuable. But you can also add much more to this team.

An experienced BMET or CE has seen good and bad medical equipment installations—from poorly designed nurse stations and inadequate closet space for network equipment to poorly ventilated areas for computerized equipment. As you will learn in this issue's cover story, by clearly sharing your experience and vision with the construction team, everyone will benefit from your input.

There are several ways to convey your ideas with the team. One way is to draw a diagram of what you would envision for a correct installation and share it with all of the affected members (nursing, architects, biomed, and IT). This works much better than just giving the architects the physical dimensions, wattage rating, and BTU rating of medical equipment.

Working with the medical equipment vendors is also very important. You must clearly explain your expectations. What is the installation timeline? What equipment would fit your needs? This process includes talking to sales representatives, the clinical trainer, the project manager, and the installation team.

You can also contribute to the construction team's expertise by sharing your experience as a hospital employee, as a visitor at a hospital, and maybe even as a patient. As you visit a hospital, keep mental notes of what worked well and bring those ideas with you to your next construction meeting.

I wish you the best of luck in your current and future construction projects. Your expertise in biomedical engineering will only add to the success of your career and to the success of your facility's projects.



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