

## APPENDIX 4.5 – AHS PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

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### Stakeholder Consultation (Patients and Families)

Patients and Family Centred Care is an integral part of AHS’s “Patient First” Strategy. This is not only reflected in the operation of the clinical services provided, but also in how health capital projects are planned and designed. The Project Team (including INFRA project manager and AHS clinical liaison) is to consider (where appropriate) involving patients and families in the design process and as part of the advisory and planning groups for health capital projects.

<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/patientfirst.aspx>

### Infection Prevention and Control

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) is a critical component in the planning, design, construction, and operation of health facilities. The over-arching objective is to create clean and safe environments for patients, staff and visitors. Designs should facilitate good infection and control practices, incorporating quality finishes and fittings that allow for easy access, cleaning and maintenance to take place. The risk of transmission of healthcare associated infections can be reduced in the built environment proactively through appropriate consultation, planning, design and construction.

AHS “Infection Prevention and Control - Health Care Facility Design Guidelines and Preventive Measures for Construction, Renovation and Maintenance Activities” establish the minimum IPC requirements for the planning, design, construction and renovation of health care facilities. These guidelines have been approved by the Health Capital Joint Operations Committee and Health Capital Joint Steering Committee for all health care projects implemented by Alberta Infrastructure. The guidelines are updated regularly and reference the most current, evidence-based body of relevant literature, including CSA Z317.13 and CSA Z8000.

<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/page6410.aspx>

To facilitate incorporation of these IPC principles, it is essential to establish clear lines of communication with IPC and others on the multidisciplinary team through all stages of the project specifically outlining roles and responsibilities, mutual expectations, decision-making processes, and subsequent actions in the event of unanticipated events or challenges.

### Simulation-Based Mock-up Evaluation

Health capital projects are among the most complex buildings in our society to plan, design, and construct and require the coordination of numerous healthcare, engineering and design professionals. Despite best intentions and efforts, the design and construction of the facility can create unexpected complications and challenges in how healthcare teams provide patient care.

An important tool that can address challenges that might otherwise have been missed, especially in the design of critical care areas, is designing and testing mock-up environments. Mock-ups can range from simple tapes on the floor and cardboard boxes representing equipment and cabinetry to a fully built out room housing actual equipment and millwork. The level of mock-up required will depend on the complexity and scale of the project as well as specific clinical needs and learning objectives. Simulation within the mock-up environment, where patients and clinical staff enact anticipated processes and procedures, allows users of the space to interact with each other and planned medical equipment so that the effectiveness of the design can be verified and modified if required. This is a critical tool and approach that should be incorporated into the design process to help improve patient safety, staff efficiency and user experience while preventing costly design and construction errors.

The Health Quality Council of Alberta (HQCA) has developed a Simulation-Based Mock-Up Evaluation Framework for use when considering, planning, or conducting mock-up evaluations.

Project Managers may access the HQCA document from [hqca.ca/humanfactors](http://hqca.ca/humanfactors) or the Health Facility Standards sharepoint site.

Human Factors expertise can be requested through the AHS Human Factors Team ([humanfactors@ahs.ca](mailto:humanfactors@ahs.ca)).