



Soft Suicide Prevention Doors

Need: There is a need to provide privacy and enhance the healing environment for hospital in-patients who are at risk for injuring themselves or others. These patients generally have little privacy because doors and shower curtains can provide anchor points or materials for auto-asphyxiation. There is also a need to provide safe, easily updated artwork to enhance the healing environment, since hung artwork can be used as a weapon, and painted murals are difficult to update.

Solution: Soft Suicide Prevention Door (SSPD) provides privacy while eliminating anchor points and safety risks of traditional doors and curtains. SSPD also provides calming large-format artwork that can be rotated for the seasons or among similar sized doors in the hospital.

Description: SSPD is a non-rigid door that breaks away from its Velcro[™] hinges with the application of less than ten pounds of force. It is waterproof, pick-resistant and constructed from anti-microbial and flame-resistant materials. SSPD may be installed in existing door frames, toilet partitions, shower stall openings, etc. Standard dimensions are 58" tall and up to 42" wide for single doors, with wider openings accommodated by double saloon-style doors. An image may be printed on one or both sides.



History and awards

This product was developed in collaboration with the VA Medical Center in Sheridan, WY, in response to the increased instances of suicide and attempted suicide among US Veterans of recent wars. A significant need exists for this product in state and private facilities as well. Hospitals choose SSPD to provide safety, privacy and cheerful artwork for thier patients. SSPD is featured in the "Design Guide for the Built Environment of Behavioral Health Units" published on the website of the National Associate of Psychiatric Health Systems, and won the 2009 Design Award from the National Center for Patient Safety.

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