



KEY POINT SUMMARY

OBJECTIVES

To create an easy- and inexpensive-to-use tool that can evaluate patient bathroom usability during the design process.



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Developing a Usability Evaluation Tool to Assess the Patient Room Bathroom

Fink, N., Pak, R., Battisto, D. 2010 | *Health Environments Research & Design Volume 3, Issue 3, Pages 22-41*

Key Concepts/Context

There is not an easy- and inexpensive-to-use tool that designers can utilize to assess usability in patient room bathrooms during the design process.

Methods

Data were collected via focus groups with nurses (one with four participants and a separate group with five), interviews with nurses (six), and nursing assistants (two) and “review of existing heuristic evaluations, reported hospital bathroom problems and safety checklists.” Data collected were synthesized and the desired sort of evaluation tool was developed.

Findings

A useful tool was developed and is available as an appendix to this article. Issues addressed include space/clearance, location/anthropometric concerns, labeling and consistency, safety, surfaces, and equipment/machinery.

Design Implications

The tool presented in the appendix should be used during the design process to assess existing and proposed bathrooms.

Limitations

The tool has not yet been extensively tested.