

# 9 Ways to Improve Healthcare and Hospital Security



Healthcare facilities are unique in their security requirements, consisting of both public and private areas that house a variety of individuals including patients, staff, visitors, contractors, and more. The importance of robust door control solutions cannot be overstated. These systems are the linchpin of healthcare security efforts, providing the means to uphold the integrity of sensitive areas while serving as a formidable barrier against unauthorized entry, theft and myriad other potential security breaches.

In this tip sheet, we will explore nine ways in which hospitals and healthcare organizations can leverage door control solutions to enhance security, protect valuable assets, and create a safer environment for all stakeholders.

- 1. Secure Smaller Assets** – Protecting improper access to small assets, such as patient files and pharmaceuticals, is critical in healthcare environments. For these small assets, consider compact maglocks, or **Mini-Mites**, a reliable method of access control that can be mounted on file cabinets or drawers. Creating 300 pounds of direct holding force, a Mini-Mite can help hospitals reduce liability and maintain HIPAA compliance.
- 2. Consider Vertically Mounting Maglocks** – **Maglocks** are available in a variety of holding forces, most of which are able to withstand human attempts at forced entry or egress. However, this is not always the case. When in doubt, consider double or triple vertically mounted maglocks, as a multiple vertical mounted installation provides superior holding force, making it difficult for unauthorized individuals to force their way into or out of a patient room or unit.

**3. Install Touchless Solutions – Touchless door control solutions** take hospital safety to the next level by providing completely hands-free access to designated areas such as emergency rooms, operating and recovery areas, and more. This touchless feature minimizes the spread of germs and enhances infection control measures in hospitals and healthcare facilities.

**4. Promote Operational Efficiency –** Being able to move swiftly during emergency operations saves critical time in environments where seconds can determine the success of patient outcomes. Large **emergency push plates** facilitate quick and easy door access by acting as a kick plate for swift door access. Medical staff can simply activate an emergency push button with a quick kick or nudge, saving time and reducing touch surfaces.

**5. Ensure Patient Comfort –** Ensuring patient comfort and convenience is key in promoting safety as well as improving recovery outcomes. This is perhaps best exemplified through the use of a **two-door interlock controller** in shared patient bathrooms. Here, the interlock controller ensures that only one door can be open at a time, preventing unwanted access to the bathroom while another person is inside. This feature helps maintain patient privacy and comfortability while protecting hospitals from liability.

**6. Fast Emergency Response –** Emergency **push buttons**, such as panic buttons and lockdown buttons, are essential equipment in hospital environments where workplace violence rates far exceed those of private industries. Emergency push buttons can be used to initiate swift reactionary measures in emergency situations such as an active shooter or aggressive patient behavior. Push buttons can also be utilized in patient rooms to request emergency medical care or assistance.



Dortronics is an industry leader in standard and custom access control products and locking hardware devices for healthcare facilities. **Contact us** to get started, or browse our interactive **Medical Campus** to see how our comprehensive range of door control solutions caters to the diverse needs of hospitals and healthcare facilities