

For Immediate Release

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HOSPITAL CEOS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT RENOVATIONS, IMPROVING FACILITIES

CHICAGO, July 24, 2007— Hospital CEOs are enthusiastic about investing in their facilities, according to the results of a recent survey by the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). ACHE surveyed 984 hospital CEOs to learn about construction and renovation projects at their hospitals. It received responses from 511 CEOs. Those surveyed were asked to report on activity during the past three years.

According to the survey, renovations and expansions are key to hospitals' long-term plans. CEOs noted they have good reasons to invest in better buildings, including improved quality of care for patients and happier employees. Of those surveyed, 91 percent stated that investment in better healthcare buildings pays off directly through enhanced patient care, and 88 percent stated it pays off in improved employee morale. In addition, 57 percent of respondents reported that physicians on their hospital's staff were in favor of improved facilities.

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Respondents were asked which specific design features they were planning to implement in their hospitals. Concerning safety, 88 percent of respondents stated that they had implemented or partially implemented hand-hygiene stations. The next most popular method of increasing safety, acknowledged by 74 percent of respondents, was separating clean and dirty areas on patient floors. Artwork was the most popular choice for stress reduction, with 66 percent of respondents having implemented or partially implemented artwork at their facilities. A wireless communication system (to eliminate overhead paging) was the next most popular method of stress reduction, with 55 percent of respondents reporting that they had implemented or partially implemented such a system.

The CEOs also were asked to report on activities that improve ecological health. Sixty-eight percent of respondents had implemented or partially implemented plans to reduce energy use as a way of fostering ecological health. Minimizing light pollution from parking lots (43 percent) and reducing water use within the building (43 percent) were the next most popular methods of fostering ecological health within a hospital.

Of those responding, 56 percent reported having conducted major renovations (those costing more than \$1 million) during the last three years, and 46 percent reported having expanded their hospitals. Fourteen percent reported that they were building a new hospital.

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Design Features to Reduce Stress, Increase Safety and Contribute to Ecological Health

Feature	Implemented or Partially Implemented (Percent)
Ways to increase safety:	
Installing hand-hygiene stations	88
Separating clean and dirty areas on patient floors	74
Single occupancy patient rooms	67
Improving air filtration systems	58
Ensuring patients are visible to nursing staff	55
Acuity-adaptable patient rooms*	45
Double wide bathroom doors	32
Ways to reduce stress:	
<i>Adding pleasant diversions:</i>	
Artwork	66
Natural lighting	52
Healing gardens	38
<i>Facilitating social interaction:</i>	
Floors and room layout	45
Sleeping accommodations for spouse/significant other	43
Kitchens for family use	16
<i>Offering staff support facilities:</i>	
Exercise room	35
Windowed break rooms with outside access	31
Staff-only cafeteria	12
<i>Reducing noise:</i>	
Wireless communication system	55
Sound absorbing ceilings	45
Sound absorbing floors	38
Ecological health:	
Reducing energy use	68
Minimizing light pollution from parking lots	43
Reducing water use within the building	43
Reducing use of PVC (polyvinyl chloride)	29
Employing renewable energy systems such as photovoltaics	11

*Note: These are standardized rooms designed to accommodate a wide variety of patient conditions, needs, equipment and staffing during changing stages of illness and recovery.

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The American College of Healthcare Executives is an international professional society of more than 30,000 healthcare executives who lead hospitals, healthcare systems and other healthcare organizations. ACHE is known for its prestigious credentialing and educational programs and its annual Congress on Healthcare Leadership, which draws more than 4,000 participants each year. ACHE is also known for its journals, the *Journal of Healthcare Management* and *Frontiers of Health Services Management* and its magazine, *Healthcare Executive*, as well as groundbreaking research and career development and public policy programs. ACHE's publishing division, Health Administration Press, is one of the largest publishers of books and journals on all aspects of health services management in addition to textbooks for use in college and university courses. Through such efforts, ACHE works toward its goal of being the premier professional society for healthcare leaders by providing exceptional value to its members.

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