

PHARMACY Purchasing & Products

Constructing a New Cleanroom

• By Sharlene Lau, PharmD

A 401-bed, not-for-profit community hospital, Bethesda Memorial Hospital and its affiliates offer a full array of health care services, including a nationally accredited vascular institute, general and specialized surgery, maternity services, and neonatal and pediatric intensive care, among other specialty areas. Prior to renovating our pharmacy's cleanroom in December 2007, we faced several challenges in achieving USP <797> compliance. We temporarily relocated our compounding operations to a new room, and contracted with R.C. Smith to build an IV room that met the specifications set forth by USP <797>. R.C. Smith provided the design and construction of the cleanroom, working with our facilities staff and engineer throughout the project.

We chose to work with R.C. Smith on the design of our cleanroom, because we had visited other cleanrooms completed by the company and liked what we saw. We wanted a design that would accommodate our daily workflow, while meeting USP <797>'s stringent construction requirements. R.C. Smith was quick to address our requests, such as our desire to add a STAT hood to our cleanroom. They worked with us throughout the entire process, which took about three and a half months.

Per our goals, our new cleanroom accommodates our workflow and meets USP <797> requirements. Furthermore, our pharmacy staff is very satisfied with the design, as it did not hinder their workflow. R.C. Smith's work ensured a functional cleanroom for our pharmacy. We are very pleased with the workflow design and the casework quality. ■

Sharlene Lau, PharmD, has been the director of pharmacy at Bethesda Memorial Hospital for three years. Prior to assuming her current post, she was the operations manager for two years, after serving as clinical manager for seven years. She received her doctorate from the University of Florida, Gainesville.



Photos courtesy of R.C. Smith Company



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