



Study Devises Ways to Shorten Steps and Give Nurses More Time

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ABSTRACT:

Shortening the number of steps nurses have to take is something hospitals have been striving for as the workforce ages and hospitals make efforts to give caregivers more time at the bedside.

One factor working against reducing nurse travel times is the trend toward private rooms, larger rooms and larger unit sizes. "Nurses spend a substantial part of their walking time retrieving and delivering patient medications," says Debajyoti Pati, director of research at HKS Architects, Dallas. In addition, many hospitals have a medication room on each unit with an automated dispenser, and patient safety practices often advise nurses to retrieve medicine for each patient separately.

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