



# Why Hospital Security Needs to Be in the Best of Health

Hospitals and healthcare facilities face a wide range of security challenges. However, the high volume of people entering and leaving these facilities makes security particularly difficult to manage. According to recent surveys, 91% of emergency physicians have either been a victim of violence or knew a colleague who had been, and 65% of healthcare facilities have reported theft incidents. More than ever, it's critical that these facilities are equipped with security systems that provide the highest level of protection for patients, staff, physicians, and visitors. In fact, 94% of healthcare executives agree and rank security as a top priority within their facilities.

The challenge of balancing unwavering security with a warm, healing atmosphere demands a bold and visionary approach—one that harnesses cutting-edge, reliable security technology to protect without compromise. In this article, we will explore the security needs of hospitals and healthcare facilities from the point of view of a surgeon and a facility manager to gather a comprehensive view of the situation and solutions.

## How Security Impacts Surgeons

Hospital surgeons require quick access to patients and critical areas, particularly during emergencies or urgent procedures. They need to move efficiently through the facility without unnecessary delays. Effective security helps protect patients and staff from potential threats or disruptions, allowing surgeons to focus on providing high-quality care. However, many door security systems have components that can obstruct or hinder these transport processes.

To that point, security should not only be strong and reliable, but "invisible" and non-intrusive, especially when transporting patients to and from the emergency room. That requires innovative door security systems with latch retraction, that do not get in the way of traffic.

## A Question of Cleanliness

Preventing the spread of infections is important anywhere, but even more critical in hospitals. Unfortunately, many door security systems are manufactured using large amounts of plastics which cannot be disinfected or even exposed aluminum components which perform poorly with hospital cleaning chemicals. Only door security products made with stainless steel can be disinfected and sanitized as per hospital standards. Poor choices in security can not only harm patients and staff, but also the facility's reputation.

A perceived lack of security can negatively affect patient experiences and damage the facility's reputation, extending beyond the impact on patients alone. While surgeons are not primary decision-makers regarding security, they have the power to not work for a hospital with a poor security system. This is especially critical when hospitals are recruiting new surgeons. For that reason and more, it's vital to consider the needs of surgeons when looking at door security systems.

## **Facility Managers: Managing the complexities of security**

Facility managers are responsible for ensuring a safe environment for patients, staff, and visitors by implementing effective security devices. They need systems that provide strong access control to prevent unauthorized entry, particularly in sensitive areas like operating rooms, pharmacies, and patient rooms. Some parts of hospitals and healthcare facilities require even stricter access controls. For example, psychiatric units house individuals with mental health conditions or psychiatric disorders, which can pose safety risks for both staff and patients. These areas often need reliable exit alarm devices that prevent unauthorized access while allowing quick response if emergency exits are used as well as access control with tailgate detection.

What's more, they need to ensure that the security system complies with local, state, and federal regulations related to safety and security. As a result, hospital facility managers look for solutions that are proven reliable, easy to install and maintain, and compliant with health and safety standards. The following are the most important points Facility Managers consider when exploring door security systems.

## **Facility Managers: Top 4 Security System Needs**

### **Quality**

Facility managers want a system they can rely on for the long term. That means delivering the highest level of reliability and manufacturing that reflects Made-in-America standards.

### **Simplicity**

Installing security devices in hospitals, whether large or small can often be a complex and time-consuming process. Facility Managers want a solution that is easy to install, to reduce security downtime, expenses, and make maintenance a quick task.

### **Customer Service**

Facility Managers must deal with the unexpected in the hospital. If an issue arises regarding the security system, they need to know that help is nearby and ready to solve quickly via a single phone call.

### **Integration with Other Technologies**

Healthcare facilities are increasingly adopting integrated systems that combine security, access control, and monitoring. Facility Managers want products that can be integrated with existing technologies to provide comprehensive safety solutions.



## Do Your Research, Contact an Expert

Recent advancements in access control technology for healthcare facilities include a variety of solutions, such as stainless-steel door access devices, locks, alarms, delayed egress mechanisms, and activation systems. And because healthcare facilities vary greatly in size and complexity—from small clinics to large hospitals—they need customizable security solutions tailored to their specific requirements.

These systems should also be scalable, allowing facilities to expand as their needs evolve. If you are considering installing a new security system or upgrading your current system, be sure to do your research to understand your options, and speak with a security expert to ensure you're making the right decision.

For more information or to make an appointment for a security audit, please contact:

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