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Improving the quality of care at the Heart Hospital of Austin

Introduction

Heart Hospital of Austin opened on December 7, 1998 as a specialty care facility dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of heart disease. This 120,000 sq.ft., 58-bed hospital provides comprehensive inpatient and outpatient cardiac care, and a 24-hour full service Emergency Center. Heart Hospital of Austin was designed to provide the best possible setting for the diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular disease.

Challenge

Protecting patients and staff from airborne pathogens and irritants was the prevailing reason Heart Hospital of Austin was interested in the StrionAir System. “Indoor air quality is a major concern for us,” according to John Moniz, Facilities Engineer “A helicopter pad is located next to one of our roof top air handlers, and we needed a higher performance air filtration solution to keep the exhaust out of the building, as well as airborne pathogens that could potentially affect the quality of our patient care.”

Solution

StrionAir was able to address both of these concerns by integrating StrionAir Systems into two existing roof top units and two air handlers inside the building. The installation, which included 78 filter positions, replaced legacy 90% cartridge filters and 30% pre-filters.

Result

Over 100,000 sq. ft. of the hospital is now served by StrionAir Systems, including the emergency room, laboratories, general patient areas and the facility’s main floor admission, waiting and cafeteria areas.

Almost immediately, there was an improvement in the facility’s indoor air quality – particularly noticeable in the areas of the hospital that had been affected by helicopter exhaust. The StrionAir System has been tested by the Center for Transportation Research at the US Department of Energy’s Argonne National Laboratory and shown to have a filtration efficiency of 95.7% against exhaust particles .02 to 0.3 microns in diameter.

StrionAir is providing additional indoor air quality benefits to patients and staff alike. “One of our staff asked me within days of the StrionAir System installation what I did with the air”, Moniz stated, “His asthma had improved so much he knew something was different. The StrionAir System brought even more value than we originally anticipated.”

“We are pleased with the StrionAir System,” added Moniz, “The installation went very smoothly without any glitches.” The Heart Hospital of Austin plans to retrofit its remaining air handlers including those serving the operating room.