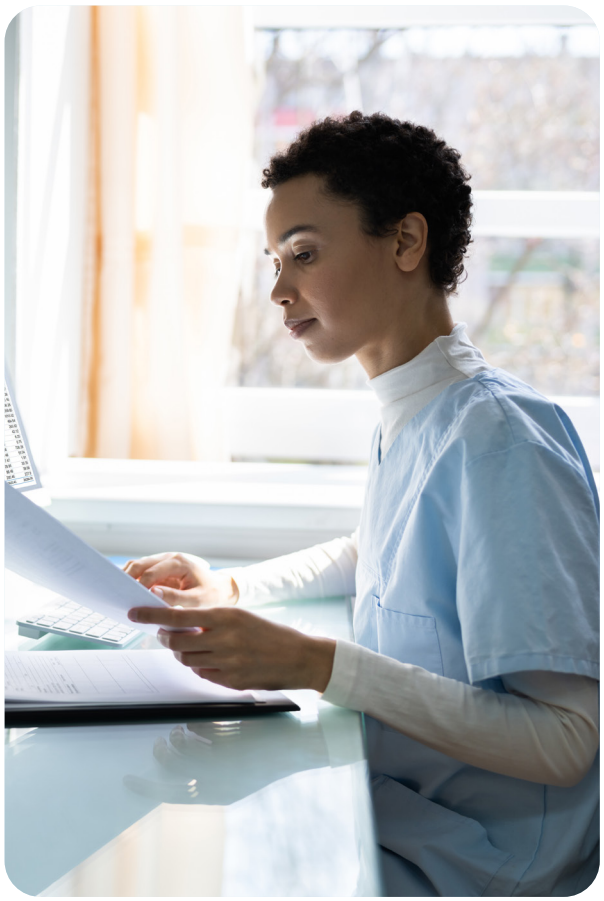
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WHITE PAPER

# Prioritizing Healthcare Facilities Readiness Among Budget Constraints



The pandemic challenged healthcare systems in ways we never imagined, and hospitals continue to face financial challenges that threaten the bottom line.



## Consistently prepared

Hospitals have returned to normal operations, but in the "new normal," budgets remain tight. Hospitals need to ensure that facilities management responsibilities remain a priority, paying careful attention that cost-cutting measures do not impact these critical areas:

1. Regulatory compliance
2. Patient safety
3. Disaster preparedness
4. Space flexibility
5. Capital investment priorities

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## Carefully consider the importance of facilities management when considering budget cuts.

Financial and economic challenges in recent years, including the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a flurry of cost-cutting measures by many hospitals racing to reduce short-term expenses through staff reductions, consolidating spaces and/or closing locations, and cutting costs deemed unnecessary in the moment. As a results of this turmoil, many in the healthcare industry have shifted to quarterly or monthly budgets to allow more flexibility during ever-changing conditions.

This fluid budgeting method means that it is critical that healthcare CEO, CFO, and department leaders work together more closely than ever before to prioritize the overall health of the system. Your facilities management leadership team should be at the table during the budgeting process, partnering with you in controlling and predicting capital expenses, while ensuring continued compliance, patient safety, and emergency preparedness.

## Regulatory compliance

Regulatory compliance and survey readiness are critical, and should remain a priority when budgeting. An experienced facilities management partner will keep up with regulatory changes and assist with ongoing standardization and survey readiness.

An organized documentation system is critical to ensuring that all information is readily available for any surveying agencies. Having a proven compliance program in place that includes documentation will help keep your facility survey-ready, making leaders feel more at ease.

> “Leaders must work together more closely than ever before to prioritize the overall health of the system.



# Patient safety

Patient safety remains critical, especially during a crisis or when a disaster strikes. The ability of your facilities team to adapt in an instant can make all the difference. Facilities management leads the way in ensuring a safe physical environment for your staff, patients, and visitors. In the United States, it is estimated that 1 in 10 patients are harmed while receiving hospital care. Of these, nearly 50% are considered preventable.  Safety and emergency planning should be fully integrated into daily facilities management and compliance. The facilities team should also work alongside your staff to proactively create emergency management plans for a variety of emergency scenarios.

**1 in 10**

Patients are harmed while receiving hospital care

# Disaster preparedness

Being prepared for the next disaster is crucial to ongoing operations. Recent weather-related disasters and infectious disease outbreaks have highlighted the critical partnership between hospital leaders and their facilities teams.

Your facilities management team should play an integral role in preparing and executing emergency management plans to ensure ongoing operations during any type of emergency including active shooter incidents, natural disasters, and outbreaks of disease.

An on-site facility team is ready to respond quickly in a crisis. Facilities without an integrated facilities management program may be hampered in their ability to continue serving their community as they wait for contract vendors to be available to provide critical services in a time of high demand.



# Space flexibility

Space flexibility allows sites to quickly adapt to unexpected situations such as an infectious disease outbreak. Healthcare leaders must prioritize an integrated approach to space reconfiguration, allowing them the ability to quickly flex spaces as needed.

An on-site facilities team has working knowledge of your site and your specific needs, reacting instantaneously as situations arise, and providing critical insight when it comes to capital planning and budgeting.

# Prioritizing capital investments

Prioritizing capital investments becomes even more challenging when budgets are tight, and leaders battle for scarce resources. Healthcare leaders tend to prioritize clinical equipment during the capital budgeting process, and items related to the physical environment can often be overlooked.

Physical environment capital needs are not just sunk costs, they are performing assets that help the clinical teams perform their job. Your facilities team should provide valuable insight during the capital planning process, enabling data-driven decision making utilizing industry benchmarks to demonstrate ways to extend the life of assets to deliver savings.

# Leverage facilities management expertise

Navigating the post-pandemic new normal and ever-evolving budget landscape is tricky. Including your facilities management team in the budgeting process will ensure that the physical environment, patient safety, and emergency planning are protected within your budgeting framework.

Utilize the expertise of your facilities partner to:

- ✓ Maintain a safe healing environment, within budget
- ✓ Provide an integrated facilities management approach when transforming space, ensuring ongoing operations and goal alignment
- ✓ Utilize on-site staff to react quickly to urgent needs, instead of waiting on a vendor to respond
- ✓ Partner in capital planning utilizing a data-driven approach
- ✓ Prioritize emergency planning and preparedness alongside patient safety when budgeting

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As the leading facilities services provider in the U.S. exclusively serving the healthcare industry, Medxcel's unmatched expertise ensures optimal facility management and support that enhances operational efficiency and elevates patient care.

Interested in learning more about how Medxcel's solutions can drive value for your organization?

Contact us at sales@medxcel.com