

Renovation

Presented to an organization that has altered the existing conditions or added new space to existing structures. The original building envelope remains essentially intact.

Project:

Penrose Hospital Emergency Department Renovation

Location:

Colorado Springs, Colo.

Square feet:

13,300

Project cost:

\$4.2 million

Team members:

David Howard,
director of facilities/environmental
services, Penrose-St. Francis
Health Services, Colorado
Springs, Colo.

Sean Mulholland,

construction manager,
Penrose-St. Francis Health
Services, Colorado Springs,
Colo.

Paul Reu,

project manager, RTA Architects,
Colorado Springs, Colo.

Jessica Ramos,

architectural intern,
RTA Architects,
Colorado Springs, Colo.

Ashley Fritz, LEED AP BD+C,

project engineer,
GE Johnson Construction,
Colorado Springs, Colo.

Ben Schlick,

superintendent,
GE Johnson Construction,
Colorado Springs, Colo.

The team working to renovate the Penrose Hospital Emergency Department needed to complete the project during a small window of time

(just 10 months) while allowing the Level 2 Trauma Emergency Department to function as normal. The team worked together and used evidence-based design throughout.

For example, the emergency department transitioned to nursing pods instead of centralized nursing stations to reduce travel distances and noise levels. The department increased from 20 to 27 patient rooms. Three open triage beds were replaced with three triage rooms, and a fast-track area was created for three patients. The goal was to decrease patient waiting time through efficiencies and provide more private exam rooms without increasing the department's total clinical area.

Since the project has been completed, wait times have decreased despite an increase in the number of patients seen each month. The average number of minutes from reception to room was 45 before construction, 41.6 during construction, and 24 post construction.

"This was a challenging initiative that has generated a superb response from the



Colorado Springs community and could only have been accomplished with the unwavering teamwork demonstrated between my staff, the design team, and our contractors," said Margaret Sabin, president and CEO of Penrose-St. Francis Health Services.

