

CASE STUDY

Healthcare



Fairview Dental Clinic North Aurora, IL

Fairview Dental clinic of North Aurora, Illinois, began construction of a new 6,343 square foot building designed by Total Health Environment Design of Austin, Texas.

The elegant facility was to include a spacious reception area, private consultation rooms, multiple lab areas, and practice for the dentist partners.

Of great concern was the adoption of a new filing storage system as a replacement for an outmoded lateral mobile file system. The old filing system, located behind the reception area, contained exposed end tab files with no provision for locking or concealing the records from view. Staff members thought the antiquated system was noisy and inconvenient to use.

A new system had to provide front-office access to files and ensure security for patient records, while offering room for an adaptable

storage and filing system for housing items other than patient files. Administrative files, office supplies, mixed media, and personal items needed to be taken into consideration. Although the facility would be spacious; the central records area behind reception had to utilize floor space efficiently.

The design firm specified Aurora, known for filing and storage systems used extensively in the dental and healthcare markets. Their solution was to use Times-2 - dual-sided, rotating filing cabinets that lock. Units can be closed to provide a clean and uncluttered door front. When a file is needed, one spin rotates the cabinet to the open position; one more spin closes the unit again.

Based on clinic growth projections, the architect suggested a total of fourteen units. Two rows of seven units were to be located directly behind the reception counter, installed into



Fairview Dental Clinic; Administrative Area
Staff members access the interior side of the Times-2 storage system.

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a partial-alcove setting. Chris Gonzalez, Office Manager, noted: "Since the clinic's opening, staff members have been giving the storage and filing system a workout, accessing the Times-2 cabinets hundreds of times per day. The units are user-friendly and quiet, preserving a tranquil atmosphere that is so important in a busy dental office."

Because the Times-2 are in a back-to-back configuration, reception staff can access front row units at the same time that administrative staff work with units on the concealed "back-office" side. This double sided system ensures that both sets of files, active working files and archival records, are within reach at a moment's notice.

The front row of units exposed to the public can be closed each time a patient record has been accessed, keeping the reception area neat and clean. Fairview Dental has also benefited by owning a system of locking units that help them secure patient files for HIPAA compliance.



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Front Reception Counter with Times-2 Storage System