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The Good ward: a support tool for better planning and decision making when healthcare facilities are being planned and built

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“The good ward” is a web-based tool that has been developed in the project with the same name and initiated by the Program for Technical Standard (PTS) in collaboration with the Centre for Healthcare Architecture at Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg. PTS is a group of several Swedish county councils established shortly after health care decentralization and liquidation of the Central Standard for Healthcare Construction (SPRI). Program for Technical Standards (PTS) is aimed to effectively administer and continually improve delivery of efficient and sustainable healthcare buildings.

The purpose of this article is to describe a new practical tool that make it possible to reach both practical knowledge and current research results.

“The good ward” consists of knowledge based on research, good praxis and visualized proposals for the solutions to the design; they are merged together in an illustrative overall. The idea is that the tool is to be used as a general knowledge and inspiration basis for discussion in the collaboration process on each particular project. Visualizations show the consequences of different solutions and how research-based knowledge can be worked into. It is an open material where standard room and proposed organizational ward should be regarded as illustrative rather than complete solutions to copy directly.

The project “The good ward” has been developed in collaboration with several stakeholders - health care professionals, local planners, project managers, architects and researchers from different disciplines. We have worked cross-professional in dialogue form together to develop ideas and proposals for solutions for a good ward design. The consolidated material has been processed

and remitted to the PTS group and then discussed at a final seminar. Health care buildings are important and a long-term social investment, and should as far as possible be based on best available knowledge.

References

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