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New Healthcare Seating Focuses on Cleanliness

First products will be launched at Healthcare Design.06 this November in Chicago.

BY MEAGHAN O'NEILL
INTERIOR DESIGN • OCTOBER 24, 2006



After four years of research into healthcare seating solutions, **Keilhauer** has launched **Sittris**, a new, division devoted exclusively to the healthcare industry. The line addresses a growing demand for healthcare environments that balance the healing, comfort, and physical support requirements of patients, staff, and visitors alike. Sittris's first products will be launched at [Healthcare Design.06](#), to be held in Chicago, November 4-

7.

With statistics showing 10 percent of all hospitalized patients in North America acquiring an infection after admission, Sittris believes that furnishings that can be kept germ-free and sterile are crucial to the road to recovery. As a result, Sittris products offer improvements in cleanliness via innovative upholstery solutions and fabric treatments.

Three choices for fighting infection have been developed: Siliform, a patented silicone-application process; Microcare upholstery fabric; and the non-PVC synthetic-leather Sustain. The last two are antimicrobial, impermeable to fluids, soap-and-water cleanable, and stain-, soil-, and liquid-repellent. Microcare even features germ-killing Nano-Silver technology, a triple antibacterial mechanism integrated into the fabric instead of a topically applied treatment.

The Sittris seating line also includes products designed specifically for patient comfort and movement. In particular, the company intends to accommodate the needs of both post-operative and bariatric patients and hospital staff. Nurses, for example, who suffer from the highest incidence of back injuries of any profession due to the frequency of moving and lifting patients, will benefit from chairs specifically designed for easy access and that enable treatments to be performed on seated patients.

Leading the launch of Sittris, the Sophia series is a component seating system designed by Helen Kerr of Toronto-based **Kerr & Company**. The system features a unique back-seat shell that meets the diverse needs of both patients and caregivers and can be specified with a variety of leg and arm options, depending on the intended use (patient rooms, nursing stations, public seating areas, and specialty health purposes). Coordinating beam seating for waiting rooms and lobbies is also available.

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