Over the last few decades the image of a sterilization center has drastically changed from an area that was hidden in the darkest corner of your office to the focal and center point of your practice. If you are looking to remodel, expand or build a new practice, here are a few things to consider when investing in the sterilization area of your practice.

MARKETING

In the age of information at your fingertips, your patients are more informed than they have ever been before. Because of this, they know more about their health and expect more from their healthcare providers. In a dental office a major focus for patients is the doctor's attention to infection control: How sterile is the environment? When remodeling or building a new office, consider using a manufactured sterilization center to help market to your patients that you care about their health and the environment you treat them in. Consider placing your sterilization center in a high trafficked location that your staff can bring your patients by on their way to the treatment room, or place the sterilization center in a room that is transparent and easy to view into. Allowing the patient to easily view the sterilization process builds confidence in your staff and your practice that can lead to more positive experiences for your current and future patients.
FUNCTIONALITY

The configuration and layout of your sterilization center can be the difference in turning an average practice into a great practice! When considering your options, you have dental furniture or custom millwork options to meet your needs. Although custom millwork may have initial short-term cost savings, it is advantageous for the long-term success of a practice for you to look at a dental furniture solution. The dental furniture solutions take much of the guesswork and configuration question out of the process. The manufacturers of these all-in-one sterilization centers have considered and solved many of the potential issues that your typical dental office faces such as dirty to clean process workflow, touchless sinks or drawers, and durability of finishes to high moisture levels.

EFFICIENCY

Within your new or remodeled practice, the location and layout of the sterilization center can be very important when striving for max efficiency with your staff. There are two common types of sterilization layouts that you will find in many dental offices today: Galley and L-Shape. Below you will see the differences in these layouts. Discuss with your Patterson Equipment Specialist and DesignEdge designer to determine what type is right for you. Once the layout of your sterilization center is determined, it is important to locate it within the practice for ease of use for your staff. Typically you should design for this area to be in close proximity with the treatment rooms and with two entrances so your staff can easily access and exit the area. Make sure to also design for enough depth in the space that an employee can pass behind someone working at the sterilization center.

To learn more about sterilization centers please contact your local Patterson Equipment Specialist or DesignEDGE team member, visit pattersondental.com or call 800.873.7683 today!