

### 14.3.3 Hospital streets and general corridors

Hospital streets form the major links between clinical departments and may include public waiting areas. They have a relatively high traffic density and can be in excess of 6 m wide. General corridors can vary from the minor, linking one or two offices, to the major, linking different departments (Figure 14.3). For both areas, a maintained illuminance of 200 lx on the floor is recommended. A lower maintained illuminance of 50 lx is recommended for use at night, the lower illuminance being achieved by either selective switching or, preferably, by dimming. If selective switching is used then care should be taken to maintain an illuminance uniformity (minimum/average) of at least 0.2. This will provide the staff with a more comfortable level for moving to and from dark wards and will also avoid the patients being disturbed by the glow of bright lights from the corridor. Low glare luminaires should be used, positioned to avoid alternating brightness patterns being viewed by trolley-borne patients.



**Figure 14.3**

Hospital corridor

### 14.3.4 Changing rooms, cubicles, toilets, bath, wash and shower rooms

A maintained illuminance in the range of 100 to 150 lx on the floor is recommended. The lower illuminance is considered adequate for small, enclosed cubicles. In the interest of cleanliness, these areas should be lit to minimise shadows and no areas should have to rely solely on reflected light. Bathrooms and shower rooms are humid therefore special attention is required in the selection and the location of the luminaires. In changing areas, the luminaires should be sited between clothes racks or lockers to provide adequate light into the lockers. The positions of wall-mounted mirrors and of the general lighting should be chosen to avoid troublesome reflections.

### 14.3.5 Wards

The lighting of wards must satisfy the requirements of both the patients and the nursing staff during the day, evening and night. In bed spaces, it is now common practice for the light levels required to administer medical or general patient care to be provided without the use of a separate portable luminaire. Lighting of bed spaces should be individually switched to encourage energy saving when the bed space is unoccupied. Lighting of the central ward area should be provided so as to enable safe circulation and general cleaning procedures to be carried out. Most importantly the lighting of the whole ward should aid in the provision of a general pleasant and amenable ambience.