Nurses' Station & Resident Call System
An intensive care room shall be provided for each thirty-five (35) beds or major portion thereof and shall be located near the nurses' station. Each room shall have the standard square footage as set forth in these regulations. The room shall be provided with standard unit equipment and a lavatory with a gooseneck spout and elbow or wrist-action blade-handle controls, and a soap and a towel dispenser. At least one of these rooms is a single room which can be used for isolation.

Nurses' stations shall be provided and so designated that they contain a minimum of sixty (60) square feet per each thirty-five (35) bed patient unit, and are not more than one-hundred twenty (120) linear feet from each patient room. The station shall include adequate storage and preparation areas(s), medication, toilet and hand-washing facilities, and sufficient lighting.

A nurses' call system comprised of an electric buzzer and/or light system shall be so designed that the location of a call can be determined from the corridor and nurses' station. In addition emergency call stations shall be provided in all patient bath, toilet and shower areas. Wireless nurse call systems may be substituted for wired call systems. Wireless call systems shall meet the requirements set forth in Section 440 of these regulations.

Alzheimer’s Special Care Unit

906 PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT, DESIGN AND SAFETY

a. Physical Design

In addition to the physical design standards required for the facility's license, an Alzheimer’s Special Care Unit shall include the following:
1. A floor plan design that does not require visitors or staff to pass through the ASCU to reach other areas of the facility;
2. A multipurpose room or rooms for dining, group and individual activities, and family visits which complies with the LTC licensure requirements for common space;
3. Secured outdoor space and walkways that allow residents to ambulate, with or without assistive devices such as wheelchairs or walkers, but prevents undetected egress. Such walkways shall meet the accessibility requirements of the most current LTC and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) structural building codes or regulations at the time of licensure. Unrestricted access to secured outdoor space and walkways shall be provided, and such areas shall have fencing or barriers that prevent injury and elopement. Fencing shall be no less than 72 inches high;
4. Prohibit the use of plants that are poisonous or toxic for human contact or consumption;
5. Visual contrasts between floors and walls, and doorways and walls, in resident use areas. Except for fire exits, exit doors and access ways shall be designed to minimize contrast and to obscure or conceal areas the residents should not enter;
6. Non-reflective floors, walls, and ceilings to minimize glare;
7. Evenly distributed lighting to minimize glare and shadows; and,
8. A monitoring or nurses’ station with:
A. A call system to alert staff to any emergency needs of the residents; and,
B. A space for charting and for storage of residents' records.

b. Physical Environment and Safety.
The Alzheimer’s Special Care Unit shall:
Provide freedom of movement for the residents to common areas and to their personal spaces. The facility shall not lock residents out of, or inside, their rooms;

1. Provide plates and eating utensils that have visual contrast between the plates, the utensils and the table, and that maximizes the independence of the residents;
2. In common areas, provide comfortable seating sufficient to seat all residents at the same time. The seating shall consist of a ratio of one (1) gliding or rocking chair for every five (5) residents;
3. Encourage and assist residents to decorate and furnish their rooms with: personal items and furnishings based on the resident’s needs and preferences as documented by the ISP in the social history;

1. Individually identify each resident’s room based on the resident’s cognitive level to assist residents in locating their rooms, and to permit them to differentiate their room from the rooms of other residents;
2. Keep corridors and passageways through common-use areas free of objects which may cause falls, or which may obstruct passage by physically impaired individuals; and,
3. Only use public address systems in the unit for emergencies.

c. Egress Policies
The Alzheimer’s Special Care Unit shall develop policies and procedures to deal with residents who wander or may wander. The procedures shall include actions to be taken by the facility to: Identify missing residents;
1. Notify all individuals or institutions that require notification under law or regulation when a resident is missing; and,
2. Attempt to locate the missing resident.

d. Locking Devices
1. All locking devices used on exit doors shall be approved by the OLTC, building code agencies, and the fire marshal having jurisdiction over the facility; shall be electronic; and shall release upon activation of the fire alarm or sprinkler system.
2. If the unit uses keypads to lock and unlock exits, directions for the keypad’s operations to allow entrance shall be posted on the outside of the door.
3. The keypads and locks shall meet the Life Safety Code.

Staff shall be trained in all methods of releasing, or unlocking, the locking device.

Shower/Tub Room
None listed.
New Construction: Nursing Unit

428 INTENSIVE CARE ROOM DESIGN
Other than requirements set forth for existing structures, 406, an intensive care room shall be mechanically vented to the outside and provided with a standard private toilet and hand-washing facility. The intensive care room may also serve as an isolation room.

440 NURSES’ CALL SYSTEM

440.1 In general patient areas, each room shall be served by at least one calling station, and each bed shall be provided with a call button. Two call buttons serving adjacent beds may be served by one calling station. Calls shall register with the floor staff at the nurses' station and shall activate a visible signal at the patient’s room and audible signal at the nursing station. In multi-corridor nursing units, additional visible signals shall be installed at corridor intersections if patient room lights are not visible from the nurses' station. Nurses' calling systems which provide two-way voice communication shall be equipped with an indicating light at each calling station which lights and remains lighted as long as the voice circuit is operating.

440.2 A nurses' call emergency button shall be provided for patients’ use at each patients' toilet, bath and shower room. These call lights should be so designed that they can only be turned off in the patient area.

440.3 Wireless Nurse Call Systems - Facilities may substitute a wireless nurse call system for wired call systems or may operate both a wireless and a wired nurse call system in parallel. Wireless nurse call systems shall at a minimum:
  a. Provide a call button at each patient bed, bath, and toilet and at each whirlpool and each physical therapy room.
  b. Utilize FCC-approved radio frequencies. Frequencies must not interfere with or disrupt pacemakers, defibrillators, or other medical equipment.
  c. Receive only signals initiated from the manufacturer’s system.
  d. Provide signal coverage and penetration throughout the entire facility and all facility grounds.
  e. Provide an audible signal to any nurses’ station that provides coverage to the room from which the signal originates.
  f. Provide signaling for all wireless devices utilized by staff to receive the signal. Signaling shall include either an audible tone or vibration to alert the person carrying the receiving device, and shall display on the receiving device the specific location from which the signal originated.
  g. Provide escalation. Escalation means that if a signal is unanswered for a designated period of time, the signal is repeated and sent to other nurses’ stations or to facility staff that were not designated to receive the original signal.

441 NURSES’ STATION
Nurses’ station shall be provided and so designed that they contain a minimum of sixty (60) square feet per each thirty-five (35) bed patient unit, and are not more than one-hundred-twenty (120) linear feet from each patient room. The station shall include adequate storage and preparation area(s), medication, toilet and hand-washing facilities, and sufficient lighting.

Summary: Minimum Size per Unit/Station; Maximum Distance from Unit/Station; Call System; New Construction; Alzheimers-Specific Unit; Intensive Care Room Design