Nurses’ Station & Resident Call System

420.3.4 Resident support areas and services. The size and features of each resident support area will depend upon the number and type of residents served. The resident support areas shall be located inside of or readily accessible to each resident unit. The support areas and services shall be designed in accordance one of the following design models.

420.3.25 Nurse call systems. Wired or wireless type nurse call systems shall be permitted if they have been tested and approved by a national recognized testing laboratory (NRTL) to meet the requirements of UL 1069, 7th edition published October 12, 2007 as referenced in Chapter 35 of this code. All wireless systems shall be tested and approved by a national recognized testing laboratory (NRTL) to meet the requirements of Section 49, Wireless Systems of UL 1069, 7th edition as referenced in Chapter 35 of this code. All nurse call systems whether wired or wireless shall be supervised in accordance with the requirements of UL 1069, 7th edition for wired and wireless nurse call systems and tested and approved by a nationally recognized testing laboratory (NRTL) to meet those requirements.

420.3.25.1 A nurse call system shall be provided that will register a call from each resident bed to the related staff work area(s) by activating a visual signal at the resident room door or wireless pager and activating a visual and audible signal in the clean utility, soiled utility, nourishment station, medication prep or mobile nurse station receiver and the master station of the resident unit. If a mobile nurse station receiver is utilized to receive the resident call, it will be worn by all staff who are assigned to the resident unit and shall identify the specific resident and or room from which the call was placed. Audible signals may be temporarily silenced, provided subsequent calls automatically reactive the audible signal. In rooms containing two or more calling stations, indicating lights shall be provided for each calling station. In multi-corridor nursing units, corridor zone lights shall be installed at corridor intersections in the vicinity of staff work areas.

420.3.25.2 An emergency calling station of the pull cord type shall be provided and shall be conveniently located for resident use at each resident toilet, bath or shower room but not inside of the shower unless the nurse call device is listed for wet locations. The call signal shall be the highest priority and shall be cancelled only at the emergency calling station. The emergency calling station shall activate distinctive audible and visual signals immediately at the resident room door or wireless pager, and activate a visual and audible signal in the clean utility, soiled utility, nourishment station, medication prep or mobile nurse station receiver and the master station of the resident unit. If a mobile nurse station receiver is utilized to receive the resident call, it will be worn by all staff who are assigned to the resident unit and shall identify the specific resident and or room from which the call was placed.

420.3.25.3 The nurse call master station shall be located inside the resident unit at a staff administrative area and shall not block any incoming resident calls. The master station control settings shall not prevent the activation of the incoming audible and visual signals. In wireless
systems, all orphaned calls to mobile nurse station receivers will register at the nurse call master station.

420.3.25.4 Activation of an emergency call shall not cancel a normal call from the same room.

420.3.25.5 A corridor dome light shall be located directly outside of any resident care area that is equipped with a wired nurse call system.

420.3.4.1 Institutional design model:

420.3.4.1.1 Staff work area(s) (nurse station). A central and/or decentralized staff work area(s) shall be provided. Where a centralized staff work model is utilized it shall have space for supervisory administrative work activities, charting, and storage. The minimum area required shall be equal to 2 square feet (0.19 m²) for each resident bed served. Where a decentralized staff work model is utilized it shall provide for charting or transmitting charted data and for any storage of administrative activities.

420.3.4.1.2 A clean utility or clean holding room for storage and distribution of clean supply materials shall be provided. If the room is used for preparing resident care items, it shall contain a work counter, a hand-washing facility, and storage facilities for clean and sterile supplies. If the room is used only for storage and holding as a part of a system for distribution of clean and sterile supply materials, the work counter and hand-washing facility requirements may be omitted. The minimum size of the room shall be 60 square feet (5.57 m²).

420.3.4.1.3 A clean linen storage room, closet or area shall be provided. This area may be located within the clean utility or clean holding room. It shall be large enough to accommodate the storage of linen carts. If in compliance with the Florida Fire Prevention Code a closed-cart system may be used and stored in an alcove open to the corridor.

420.3.4.1.4 A soiled utility or soiled holding room(s) shall be provided. The soiled utility function shall be comprised of a flushing rim clinical service sink or deep bowl utility fixture with bedpan rinsing device, a double compartment sink, soiled linen receptacles, waste receptacles and a work counter with a usable minimum work surface area of 6 square feet (0.56 m²). The total minimum size of the function shall be 80 square feet (7.43 m²) and may be allocated among several soiled utility or soiled holding rooms. Rooms used only for the holding of soiled materials need contain only a hand washing facility.

420.3.4.1.5 Medication storage and distribution. A medicine preparation room or a self-contained medicine dispensing unit shall be provided for the provision of medication storage and distribution.

420.3.4.1.5.1 If a medicine preparation room is utilized, it shall be equipped with a lockable door, have a minimum area of 50 square feet (4.55 m²) and shall contain a refrigerator, locked storage for controlled drugs, a hand washing facility, and a work counter with a minimum of 6 square feet (0.56 m²) of work surface.

420.3.4.1.5.2 If a self-contained medicine dispensing unit is utilized, it shall be under the visual control of the staff and may be located at the nurses’ station, in the clean utility room, in an alcove, or in other spaces convenient for staff control provided the area occupied by the unit does not encroach upon required minimum areas. The dispensing unit may be used in a medicine
preparation room as locked storage for controlled drugs within the minimum area of 50 square feet (4.55 m²); however, the standard "cup sinks" provided in many self-contained units shall not be a substitute for the required hand-washing facility.

420.3.4.1.5.3 If there is no linen storage in the clean utility room, medicine preparation may be part of the clean utility room in which case an additional 20 square feet (1.8 m²) dedicated for this purpose shall be required. A refrigerator shall also be required if medicine preparation is included in this room.

420.3.4.1.6 A nourishment room for serving nourishments between meals shall be provided that shall contain a work counter, refrigerator, storage cabinets, and sink.

420.3.4.1.6.1 Ice for residents' consumption shall be provided by an icemaker unit that may serve more than one nourishment station if the nourishment stations are in close proximity to each other. Where the icemaker unit is accessible to residents or the public, it shall be a self-dispensing type.

420.3.4.1.6.2 The nourishment room shall include space for trays and dishes used for nonscheduled meal service. Hand-washing facilities shall be in or immediately accessible from the nourishment room.

420.3.4.2 Household design model for person centered care:

420.3.4.2.1 The functions of administrative work, charting and storage may be located among several separate direct care staff work areas located within the resident household. The administrative work area(s) shall be designed and located so it is not visually or physically separated from the normal use areas of residents and family members.

420.3.4.2.2 A clean utility or clean holding room as described in section 420.3.4.1.2 shall be provided but may be sized in accordance with the functional program and allocated among several rooms or closets within the resident household.

420.3.4.2.3 A clean linen storage room, closet or area shall be provided in accordance with section 420.3.4.1.3 and shall be located within the resident household.

420.3.4.2.4 A soiled utility or soiled holding room as described in section 420.3.4.1.4 shall be provided but may be sized in accordance with the functional program and allocated among several rooms or closets within the resident household.

420.3.4.2.5 A medicine preparation room or a self-contained medicine dispensing unit as described in section 420.3.4.1.5 shall be provided. Non-controlled prescription drugs may be stored inside the resident’s sleeping room, area, or toilet room if they are secured inside of an automatic closing and automatic locking dispensing unit that is secured in place.

420.3.4.2.5 A nourishment room as described in section 420.3.4.1.6 shall be provided but resident dietary facilities as described in section 420.3.8.1.13 may substitute for this function.

420.3.4.3 The following resident support areas, utilities, or services shall be provided in all nursing homes. Unless specifically required, these support areas may be either within the nursing unit, adjacent to the nursing unit or on the same floor as the nursing unit.
420.3.4.3.1 An equipment storage room(s) shall be provided for storage of nursing unit equipment. The minimum area required shall be equal to 2 square feet (.19 m²) for each resident, with no room being less than 20 square feet (1.86 m²) in area.

420.3.4.3.2 A housekeeping room(s) shall be provided for storage and use of housekeeping supplies and equipment.

420.3.4.3.3 If required by the functional program of the facility, a hot water or chemical type sanitizer shall be provided per facility.

420.3.4.3.4 Storage alcove space for a wheelchair(s) shall be provided in an area located out of the required means of exit egress.

420.3.4.3.5 Resident bathing facilities.

420.3.4.3.5.1 A centralized resident bathing room(s) shall be provided with a minimum of one bathtub, hydro tub, or shower for every 20 residents or fraction thereof not otherwise served by bath or shower facilities connected directly to the resident rooms.

420.3.4.3.5.2 A separate private toilet room shall be provided that is directly accessible to each central bathing area with multiple bathing fixtures without requiring entry into the general corridor. This toilet may also serve as a toilet training facility.

420.3.4.3.5.3 All showers located in bathing rooms connected directly to the resident rooms shall be designed so that a shower chair can be easily rolled in and out of the shower area.

420.3.4.3.5.4 If the Institutional design model is utilized, in addition to bathing facilities connected to the resident rooms, residents shall have access to at least one bathing room per floor or unit sized to permit assisted bathing in a tub or shower. The bathtub in this room shall be accessible to residents in wheelchairs and if a shower is used it shall be large enough to accommodate a person in a recumbent position. Other tubs or showers located within the bathing room shall be located inside of individual rooms or curtained enclosures with space for private use of the bathing fixture, for drying and dressing and access to a grooming location containing a sink, mirror and counter or shelf.

420.3.4.3.5.5 If the household design model for person centered care is utilized, in addition to the bathing facilities connected to the resident rooms, residents within each household shall have access to at least one bathing room located in or directly adjacent to the household and sized to permit assisted bathing in a tub or shower. This bathing room may be shared between two households if it is located so that it is directly adjacent to each household. The bathtub in this room shall be accessible to residents in wheelchairs and if a shower is used it shall be large enough to accommodate a person in a recumbent position. Other tubs or showers located within the bathing room shall be located inside of individual rooms or curtained enclosures with space for private use of the bathing fixture, for drying and dressing and access to a grooming location containing a sink, mirror and counter or shelf.

420.3.5.1.3 Storage for supplies, resident needs, and recreation shall be provided. This area shall be on site but not necessarily in the same building as the resident rooms, provided access is convenient. The minimum required area shall be 5 square feet (0.46 m²) per bed up to 600 square feet (55.74 m²).
Shower/Tub Room

420.3.11.8 Grab bars, 11/2 inches (38 mm) in diameter, either permanent or flip down, shall be installed in all resident showers, tubs, and baths and on any two sides of all resident use toilets. Wall-mounted grab bars shall provide an 11/2 inch (38 mm) clearance from walls and shall sustain a concentrated load of 250 pounds (113.4 kg). Where flip down grab bars are used, the toilet does not need to be located within 18” of an adjacent wall, except as required by Chapter 11 of this code.

420.3.11.9 Each resident hand-washing facility shall have a mirror unless prohibited by the nursing program. Mirror placement shall allow for convenient use by both wheelchair occupants and ambulatory persons. Tops and bottoms may be at levels usable by individuals either sitting or standing. Additional mirrors may be provided for wheelchair occupants, or one separate full-length mirror located in the resident room may be provided to meet the needs of wheelchair occupants.

420.3.11.10 Provisions for soap dispensing and hand drying shall be included at all hand washing facilities. Those in resident use areas shall be paper or cloth towels enclosed to protect against dust or soil and shall be single-unit dispensing.

420.3.11.11 Only recessed soap dishes shall be allowed in patient use tubs and showers unless the tubs and showers are of molded plastic type fixtures.

420.3.11.12 Towel bars shall be provided at each bathing facility.

420.3.11.13 All resident use plumbing fixtures and door operating hardware shall be equipped with lever type hardware for easy gripping and turning.

420.3.11.14 Toilet compartment partitions and urinal screens shall not be constructed of product that does not rust, corrode or delaminate. [4156-A3]

New Construction: Nursing Unit

Summary: Minimum Requirements per Unit/Station; Nurse Call System; Institutional Design Model; Household Design Model for Person-Centered Care; Tub/Shower Ratio; Grab Bars; Fixtures; Mirror; Storage