Nurses’ Station & Resident Call System

481—61.5(135C) Nursing care unit.

61.5(1) A nursing care unit shall include or have access to the following areas: (III)
   a. Nurses’ space,
   b. Clean work area,
   c. Medication storage,
   d. Resident rooms,
   e. Resident toilets and baths,
   f. Soiled work area, and
   g. Enclosed clean linen storage.

61.5(2) There shall be a secure place or method for storing resident information and supplies. (III)

61.5(3) A clean work area for storage and assembly of clean supplies shall contain a work counter and sink. (III)

61.5(4) Lockable medication storage including the storage of Schedule II drugs shall be provided. (III)

61.12(9) In general resident areas, each room shall be served by at least one calling station. Each bed shall be provided with a call device. Two call devices serving adjacent beds may be served by one calling station. (II, III) (Exception 4)

   a. After November 21, 1990, pull string call devices will not be acceptable. The call device shall be electrically operable from the bed or chair. (II, III) (Exception 4)
   b. All calls shall activate an audible and visible signal in each area. There shall be a visible signal in the public area at the resident’s door. (II, III) (Exception 4)
   c. In multicroridor units, additional visible signals shall be installed at corridor intersections. (II, III)
   d. Nurses’ calling systems which provide two-way voice communication shall be equipped with a light at each calling station which lights and remains lighted as long as the voice circuit is operating. (II, III)
   e. A nurses’ call emergency device shall be provided at each resident’s toilet, bath, and shower room. (II, III)

   g. As an alternative to a hardwired nurse calling station with a visible signal in the corridor at a resident’s room, a wireless calling system that provides an acceptable means of identifying the origin or location of a call is acceptable.
   h. A wireless calling system shall be connected to an emergency power source to ensure operation during a power outage.
   i. Pagers used as part of a wireless calling system shall have a self-diagnostic system to alert the user of a low battery.
For wireless calling systems utilizing two-way communication devices, a visible indicator shall be placed in a resident’s room to indicate when the system is operable and conversations may be heard.

Shower/Tub Room

61.4(8) Toilet and bath facilities shall have an aggregate outside window area of at least 4 square feet. Facilities which have a system of mechanical ventilation are exempt from this regulation. (III)

61.5(9) Each facility must provide bathing systems that meet the needs of the residents. Bathing facilities shall be provided according to the following standards:
   a. There shall be at least one bathing unit for each wing on each floor of a facility with a minimum of one unit for each 20 residents or part of 20. In facilities licensed for 15 or fewer beds, at least one bathing unit shall be provided for each five residents. (III)
   b. Every bathing unit shall have a toilet and sink which are accessible to and functional for persons with physical disabilities. (III) (Exception 2)
   c. Privacy for dressing and bathing shall be provided in bathrooms. (III)
   d. All bathrooms shall have mechanical ventilation. (III) (Exception 2) See subrule 61.11(3), paragraph “c.”
   e. Showers shall be at least 4 feet by 5 feet without curbs, and designed to permit use from a wheelchair. All tubs and shower floors shall have slip-resistant surfaces. (III) (Exception 4)
   f. Bathing areas shall have a swinging door which swings into the area. (III)
   g. Lavatories intended for use by residents shall be securely anchored to withstand an applied vertical load of not less than 250 pounds on the front of the fixture and shall be usable by people in wheelchairs. (III)
   h. Hot water and drain pipes under lavatories shall be insulated or shielded per ANSI standard A117.1-1986. (III)
   i. Soap holders shall be provided at showers and bathtubs. Soap holders in showers shall be recessed. (III) (Exception 2)
   j. All toilet, bath and shower facilities shall be equipped with grab bars and adequate safety devices. The bars shall have a diameter of 1¼ to 1½ inches and have a 1½-inch clearance to walls, shall be anchored with sufficient strength to sustain a concentrated load of 250 pounds, and shall meet the requirements of the ANSI document A117.1-1986. (II, III)
   k. Raised toilet seats shall be available for residents as needed. (III)
   l. Showers shall be equipped with a shower head on the end of a flexible hose. (III) (Exception 2)

Isolation:

61.5(12) A seclusion room may be used in an intermediate care facility for persons with mental illness. When a seclusion room is used, it must meet the following standards. A seclusion room shall:
   a. Be located where direct care staff can provide direct supervision; (I, II, III)
   b. Have only one door which swings out but does not swing into a corridor; (II, III)
   c. Have only locking devices that are approved by the state fire marshal; (I, II, III)
   d. Have unbreakable, fire-safe vision panels arranged to permit observation of the resident. The arrangement shall ensure resident privacy and prevent casual observation by visitors or other residents; (I, II, III)
   e. House only one resident at a time; (I, II, III)
f. Have an area of at least 60 square feet, but not more than 100 square feet; (II, III)
g. Be constructed to protect against the possibility of hiding, escape, injury and suicide; (I, II, III)
h. Have construction of the room area, including floor, walls, ceilings, and all openings approved in writing by the state fire marshal prior to construction or alteration of a room. Padding materials, if used, shall be approved in writing by the state fire marshal; (I, II, III)
i. Contain only vandal- and tamper-resistant fixtures and hardware; (I, II, III)
j. Contain no electrical receptacles; (I, II, III)
k. Have exterior windows or a second exit for fire safety;
l. Have security screens with tamper-resistant locks on exterior windows. The locks must be approved in writing by the state fire marshal. Privacy of the resident shall be ensured; (I, II, III)
m. Contain an exhaust ventilation system with a fan located at the discharge end of the system; (II, III)
n. Have electrical switches for the light and exhaust ventilation systems installed outside the room; (I, II, III)
o. Have an emergency call system for staff located outside the room near the observation window; (II, III) and
p. Be built with materials that are easily maintained and sanitized. (III)

61.7(9) General storage areas totaling not less than 14 square feet per bed shall be provided. If each resident has a 4-foot wide closet in the bedroom, the general storage area per bed may be reduced from 14 square feet to 10 square feet per resident. (III) (Exception 4) Storage areas are not required to be located in only one room.

a. Storage areas for linens, janitor’s supplies, sterile nursing supplies, activities supplies, library books, office supplies, kitchen supplies and mechanical plant accessories shall not be included as part of the general storage area and are not required to be located in the same area. (III)

b. Thirty percent of the general storage area may be provided in a building outside the facility easily accessible to personnel. (III)

481—61.13(135C) Specialized unit or facility for persons with chronic confusion or a dementing illness (CCDI unit or facility). This unit or facility shall be designed so that residents, staff and visitors will not pass through the unit in order to reach exits or other areas of the facility. (III)

61.13(1) If the unit or facility is to be a locked unit or facility, all locking devices shall meet the life safety code and any requirements of the state fire marshal. If the unit or facility is to be unlocked, a system of security monitoring is required. (I, II, III)

61.13(2) The outdoor activity area as required by rule 61.5(135C) shall be secure for the unit or facility. Nontoxic plants shall be used in the secured outdoor activity area. (I, II)

61.13(3) Within the unit or facility there shall be no steps or slopes. (III)

61.13(4) Dining and activity areas for the unit or facility required by rule 61.6(135C) shall be located within the unit or facility and shall not be used by other facility residents. (III)

61.13(5) An area shall be provided to allow nurses to prepare daily resident reports. (III)
61.13(6) If the lounge and activity areas are not adjacent to resident rooms, there shall be one unisex resident toilet room for each ten residents in clear view of the lounge and activity area. (III)

61.13(7) The area shall be designed to minimize breakable objects within the unit or facility.

**New Construction: Nursing Unit**

**Summary:** Locked Storage; Isolation Room; Examination and Treatment Room; Work Stations; Call System; Resident Bedside; Pull String (Date-Specific); Audible and Visual Signal; Tub/Shower Ratio; Accessibility; Privacy; Ventilation; Stall/Tub Dimensions; Safety; Grab Bars; Fixtures