Nurses’ Station & Resident Call System

(2) Nurses’ Station—Existing Facility. Each care unit shall have a nurses’ station provided with a medicine storage cabinet and preparation counter or table having adequate lighting overhead. A handsink with hot and cold running water shall be convenient to the nurses’ station.

(3) Because specific temperatures are often required for the safe storage of drugs, the storage facilities shall provide for the following conditions when prescribed:
(a) Cold—Any temperature not exceeding 8°C (46°F). A refrigerator is a cold place in which the temperature is maintained thermostatically between 2°C and 8°C (46° and 59°F). A freezer is a cold place in which the temperature is maintained thermostatically between -20°C and -10°C (-4° and -14°F).
(b) Cool—Any temperature between 8°C and 15°C (46° and 59°F). An article for which storage in a cool place is directed may, alternatively, be stored in a refrigerator, unless otherwise specified in the individual monograph.
(c) Room Temperature—The temperature prevailing in a working area. Controlled room temperature is a temperature maintained thermostatically between 15°C and 30°C (59° and 86°F).
(d) Warm—Any temperature between 30°C and 40°C (86° and 104°F).
(e) Excessive Heat—Any temperature above 40°C (104°F).
(f) Protection from Freezing. When, in addition to the risk of breakage of the container, freezing subjects a product to loss of strength or potency, or to destructive alteration of the dosage form, the container label bears an appropriate instruction to protect the product from freezing.
(g) Storage under Non-specific Conditions. When no specific storage directions or limitations are provided in the individual monograph, it is to be understood that the storage conditions include protection from moisture, freezing, and excessive heat.

(7) Utility Rooms—Existing Facility. In existing facilities service areas shall be provided for patient care items which are acceptable to the Department.

D. Call System—Existing Facilities. Existing facilities (those facilities licensed at the time this regulation becomes effective) shall provide some method/means of a patient summoning aid that shall include as minimum a combined visual and audible signal that is audible at the nurses’ station and simultaneously activates a light located in the hall, outside of and adjacent to the patient’s room. The activating device for those signals shall be located in each patient’s room and each and every bathing compartment and toilet room or compartment used by patients. Exceptions may be made in part at the discretion of the Department for an individual facility only when the facility can demonstrate compliance with the intent of this section by showing an effective patient call system to provide quality patient care.

(9) Each facility shall maintain, at all times, the capability to physically isolate any patient who may contract a communicable disease from the remaining patient population. This shall include access to bathing and toilet facilities not used by the rest of the patient population.

E. Body Holding Room-----New and Existing Facilities.
Agency Note: Existing facilities shall provide a method for holding which minimizes the psychological effect on other patients in the home.

(13) Bedpans, Urinals, and Basins——New and Existing Facilities.
(a) Each floor of the facility shall be equipped with equipment, approved by the Department, to clean and sanitize bedpans, urinals, and basins.
(b) Common-use pans and urinals shall be cleaned and sanitized after each patient use (sanitization by heat, chemicals, gas, or other means approved by the Department).
(c) Disposable pans and urinals shall be cleaned and sanitized when needed or at least weekly; they shall be discarded when damaged or no longer in cleanable condition. Disposable pans, even though sanitized, may not be transferred from one patient to another.
(d) Pans and urinals used in isolation cases shall be sterilized by approved methods.

.30 Rehabilitation Facilities — Space and Equipment.

A. Space.
(1) There shall be adequate space for the reception, examination, and treatment of patients; storage of supplies and equipment including wheelchairs and stretchers; and office space for the personnel employed;
(2) Seventy-five square feet shall be allotted for treatment area per patient based on peak treatment schedules:

Agency Note: Recommended space: Storage—10 percent of area designated for exercise and rehabilitation; Office—one therapist, 110 square feet; two or more, 85 square feet per therapist.
(3) Space may be planned and arranged for shared use by physical therapy and occupational therapy staff and patients if scheduling permits.

B. Equipment.
(1) Equipment shall be of a type that will provide safe and effective patient care.
(2) All electrical equipment shall be calibrated according to manufacturers' directions and shall be periodically serviced as part of a preventive maintenance program. A sticker bearing the date of the most current inspection shall be affixed on each piece of equipment.
(3) All electrical equipment shall be periodically tested for proper grounding, current leakage, and calibration where appropriate.
(4) Operator's instruction booklet shall be available in a designated location at all times.
(5) All flammables shall be stored in compliance with NFPA 30, flammable and combustible liquids code.
(6) Due care shall be taken in using vaporous materials or pollutants.

C. Toilet Facilities in Rehabilitation Area. In new construction, facilities with rehabilitation areas shall provide a lavatory and toilet which meet ANSI standards for wheelchair patients. These facilities shall be readily accessible to the rehabilitation patients.
Shower/Tub Room

(8) There shall be at least one bathtub or shower, or bathing device (approved by the Department), in a separate room or compartment for each 12 beds. The compartment shall be large enough to accommodate wheelchair and attendant.

(9) There shall be at least one toilet room on each floor large enough to accommodate wheelchair and attendant, to permit toilet assistance or training.

Agency Note: If the toilet facilities described above are provided in private patient toilet rooms, a separate toilet room on every floor will not be required. An inter-connecting bathroom may not be considered a private bath.

New Construction: Nursing Unit

B. Service Areas Required in New Construction or for New Facilities.

(1) Nurses' Station. The nurses' station shall be centrally located in relation to beds served and shall provide easy view of corridors outside of rooms. The Department may specify the location and size of a nurses' station which serves a nursing care unit exceeding 40 beds. A nursing care unit also shall include:

(a) A toilet, within the care unit, for the use of personnel, a handwashing sink equipped with 4 inch wrist blades, gooseneck spout, and separate soap dispensers and towel dispensers.

(b) Medicine storage cabinet with locks. Schedule II drugs shall be kept in separately locked, securely fixed boxes or drawers in a cabinet, under two locks, keyed differently; medicine storage and preparation area with illumination of 100 footcandles at the work counter; preparation area shall include a small sink set into the counter or with drain boards; biological refrigerator. Spaces housing medicine storage cabinet, medicine preparation area, and biological refrigerator shall be under the direct visual control of the nursing or pharmacy staff.

(c) Nurses' call system.

(d) Charting desk and supplies.

(e) Storage space for miscellaneous medical supplies which shall be protected from contamination.

(f) Sufficient space and equipment for medical records which enables personnel to function in an effective manner and to maintain records on all patients so they are easily accessible.

(6) Utility Rooms—New Construction.

(a) There shall be separate clean and soiled utility rooms in each nursing unit, accessible to the patient area, no more than 120 feet to the most remote patient bedroom. There shall be a separate entrance into each room.

(b) The clean utility room shall contain:
(i) Wall and base cabinets with stain resistant counter top;
(ii) A small sink set into the counter, or with drainboards; sink shall be equipped with gooseneck spout and wrist blades;
(iii) Adequate storage and work counter space for storage and assembly of supplies for nursing procedures;
(iv) Provision for storing and transporting clean linen in covered container. Clean linen may also be stored in closed linen carts or rooms exclusively provided for this purpose, if approved by the Department.

(c) The soiled utility room shall contain:
(i) Work counter with sink, gooseneck faucet, and wrist blades;
(ii) A separate wall-hung hand sink for handwashing, equipped with wrist blades and soap and towel dispensers;
(iii) Space for waste receptacles and soiled linen receptacles; provision for storing and transporting soiled linen in covered leakproof containers;
(iv) Equipment, approved by the Department, to clean and sanitize bedpans, urinals, and basins.

C. Call System—New Construction. A call system shall be installed and maintained in operating order in all nursing units. Call systems shall be maintained in a manner that will provide visible and audible signal communication between nursing personnel and patients. The minimum requirements are:

(1) A call station or stations providing detachable extension cords to each patient's bed in the patients' rooms. These extension cords shall be readily accessible to patients at all times.

(2) A visible signal in the corridor above the corridor door of each patient's bedroom, visible from all parts of the corridor.

(3) An audible signal and a nurses’ call enunciator indicating the room from which the call originates or an alternate system approved in writing by the Department, shall be located at the nurses' station. The sounding of the audible signal shall be continuous or intermittent until answered. The audible signal may not be turned off at the nursing station.

(4) A call system shall be provided in each patient's toilet room, bathroom, and shower stall in locations easily accessible to the patients. The call system shall enable patients in the rehabilitation area to summon rehabilitation staff.

(5) The nurses' call system shall be so designed as to require resetting at the station where the call originates. In a new facility, if a body holding room is provided, it shall be located to facilitate quiet and unobtrusive ingress and egress of bodies, convenient to the elevator and with an isolated exit. If a body holding room is not provided, a holding area shall be designated which approximates the above conditions.

**Summary:** Tub/Shower Ratio; Wheelchair Accommodation; Temperature; Storage of Medication; Call Systems (Existing vs. New Construction); Rehabilitation Facilities; Isolation