Nurses’ Station & Resident Call System

20.F.3. Call System
a. There shall be an automatic call system provided at each bed, as well as in each resident toilet room, bathing room, shower room, beauty parlor and common resident areas.
b. On any floor without staff on duty at all times, the call system from each bed, resident toilet room and bathing room shall be connected to the nearest nurses station, identifying the location of the call.

20.G. Provision for Isolation
Provision shall be made for isolating infectious residents in well-ventilated bedrooms having separate toilet and bathing fixtures.

20.I. Nurses Station

20.I.1. A nurses station, no more than one hundred twenty (120) feet from the farthest resident room, shall be provided on each floor of any multi-story building.

20.I.2. The nurses station shall provide adequate space for maintaining residents' records and to accommodate related staff activities.

20.I.3. All facilities shall have a well-lighted medication area containing a locked medicine cabinet or cart with one (1) or more locked sections for controlled substances and poisons, cabinet space, work space for preparation of medicines and a hand-washing sink with hot and cold running water. Any refrigerator for storing items other than food shall be in a secured (locked) area or have a compartment which may be locked.

20.I.4. The number of nurses stations and medication areas will be on the basis of facility size, physical plant layout and type of care provided, subject to Department approval.

20.J. Utility Area

20.J.1. Clean Utility Room
A room with a handwashing sink shall be provided for storage of nursing supplies and equipment. The medication room may also serve as the clean utility room, if sufficient space is available.

a. Residents’ Storage Areas
Each facility shall have sufficient appropriate and secure areas provided for the storage of residents' possessions and out-of-season clothing.

b. Facility’s Storage Areas
A separate storage area of sufficient size shall be provided to accommodate seasonal outdoor furniture and maintenance equipment.

20.L. Therapy Areas
Existing facilities shall provide areas for therapy services of sufficient size to accommodate the necessary equipment to meet residents' needs. All newly constructed facilities or additions of four (4) or more beds to existing facilities for which construction is started after July 1, 1994, shall provide areas for therapy services of sufficient size and appropriate design to accommodate the necessary equipment to meet residents' needs.

ALZHEIMER'S/DEMENTIA CARE UNITS

23.C.1. Physical Design, Environment and Safety

A home-like environment is encouraged for design of Alzheimer's/Dementia Care Units. The design and environment of a unit shall assist residents in their activities of daily living, enhance their quality of life, reduce tension, agitation and problem behaviors, and promote their safety.

a. Physical Design
In addition to the physical design standards required for the facility's license, an Alzheimer's/Dementia Care Unit shall include the following:
1. Adequate multipurpose rooms for dining, group and individual activities and family visits;
2. Secured outdoor space and walkways which allow residents to ambulate, but prevent undetected egress;
3. High visual contrasts between floors and walls and doorways and walls in resident use areas. Except for fire exits, door and access ways may be designed to minimize contrast to obscure or conceal areas the residents should not enter;
4. Floors, walls and ceilings shall be non-reflective to minimize glare;
5. Adequate and even lighting which minimizes glare and shadows and is designed to meet the specific needs of the residents; and
6. A staff work area which includes a communication system such as a telephone or two-way voice actuated call system and space for charting and storage for resident records.

b. Physical Environment and Safety
The Alzheimer's/Dementia Care Unit shall:
1. 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;
2. Assure that all assistive equipment maximizes the independence of individual residents;
3. Label or inventory all residents' possessions;
4. Provide comfortable seating in the common use areas;
5. Encourage and assist residents to decorate and furnish their rooms with personal items and furnishing based on the resident's needs, preferences and appropriateness;
6. Individually identify residents' rooms and assist residents in recognizing their rooms with appropriate and personal items; and
7. Only use a public address system in the unit (if one exists) for emergencies.

c. Egress Control
1. The Alzheimer's/Dementia Care Unit shall develop policies and procedures to deal with residents who may wander. The procedures shall include actions to be taken in case a resident elopes;
2. If locking devices are used on exit doors, as approved by the building codes agency and the Office of the State Fire Marshal having jurisdiction over the facility, then the locking device shall be electronic and release when the following occurs:
(a) Upon activation of the fire alarm or sprinkler system;
(b) Power failure to the facility; or
(c) Bypassing a key button/key pad located at exits for routine use by staff for service.

3. If the unit uses keypads to lock and unlock exits, then directions for their operation shall be posted on the outside of the door to allow individuals access to the unit. However, if the unit is a whole facility, then directions for the operation of the locks need not be posted on the outside of the door. The units shall not have entrance and exit doors that are closed with non-electronic keyed locks, nor shall a door with a keyed lock be placed between a resident and the exit.

**Shower/Tub Room**

20.H. Bathing, Lavatory and Toilet Fixtures

20.H.1. Requirements
a. Provide a minimum of one (1) bathtub or shower for each fifteen (15) residents, with a bathing facility on each resident floor. At least one (1) bathtub per floor must be provided, and in all facilities of more than fifteen (15) beds, at least one (1) shower adapted for use of wheel-in shower chairs must be provided. Requests for exceptions to these requirements may be made in writing when there is a bathing facility designed and equipped to bathe handicapped individuals and justification for the exception is documented. The Department shall indicate in writing whether or not the request for exception is granted.
c. At least one (1) toilet room accessible from the corridor shall be provided for toilet training of wheelchair residents, providing at least three (3) feet of clearance on both sides and in front of the water closet. A minimum door width of two (2) feet, eight (8) inches shall be provided to all resident toilet areas.
d. The number of licensed beds shall be used in determining the number of toileting, bathing and lavatory fixtures required.

20.H.2. Location
a. All bath and toilet rooms shall be easily accessible and conveniently located.
b. No bath or toilet room shall be so located that a resident must pass through another resident’s room to enter it.
c. No toilet room shall open directly into a kitchen, pantry or food preparation or storage room, or be so located that anyone carrying bedpans or urinals must pass through any of the above areas to enter it.

20.H.3. Ventilation
All bath and toilet rooms shall be ventilated to the outside either by means of a window that can be opened or by an exhaust fan.

20.H.4. Fixtures
a. All bathrooms and bathroom fixtures shall be of sound construction, in good repair and designed so that they may be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.
b. All toilets, showers and bathtubs shall be provided with handgrips to assist residents.

20.H.5. Lighting and Locks
a. Each toilet room and bathing room shall be adequately lighted and have a light switch just inside or outside the door, and shall have a well-lighted mirror for each lavatory.
b. Locks on the rooms shall be readily openable from the outside under all circumstances.
20.H.6. Call Bells and Door Alarms
a. Automatic call bells shall be provided for each toilet and bathing room for resident use.
b. Safety alert systems, approved by the Department, shall be provided at all exit doors that are in areas routinely used by residents.

20.H.7. Partitions
Partitions shall be installed to provide privacy for each toilet and bath fixture when there is more than one (1) such fixture in a room.

20.H.8. Equipment for Toilet Training
a. One (1) toilet enclosure that is accessible and large enough to permit toilet training of wheelchair residents shall be provided on each floor having wheelchair residents.
b. A lavatory and a mirror so located and hung that they can be used by wheelchair residents shall be provided for each of these toilets.

20.H.10. Restricted Use
Residents’ bathing, lavatory and toilet rooms shall not be used as utility areas, linen storage or medication areas.

**New Construction: Nursing Unit**

c. New facilities planned after July 1, 1994. shall have intercom systems connecting resident areas with the nurses station.

b. All new facilities or additions of more than four (4) beds to existing facilities, for which construction is started after July 1, 1994, shall provide a minimum of one (1) lavatory and one (1) toilet for each four (4) residents on each floor, directly accessible from bedrooms without entering the general corridor and separate from bathing fixtures.

**Summary:** Maximum Distance from Unit/Station; Minimum Requirements per Unit/Station; Locked Storage; Isolation Room; Alzheimer's/Dementia Care Unit; Utility Room; Call System; Tub/Shower Ratio; Tub/Shower Size; Adapted Use; Privacy; No Use for Other Purposes; Ventilation; Intercom System (new construction)