NORTH CAROLINA

Nurses’ Station & Resident Call System

(1) For each nursing unit, or fraction thereof on each floor, the following shall be provided:
(1) a medication preparation area with a counter, a sink with four-inch faucet trim handles, a
medication refrigerator, eye level medication storage, cabinet storage and double locked narcotic
storage room, located adjacent to the nursing station or under visual control of the nursing station;
(2) a clean utility room with counter, sink with four-inch handles, wall and under counter storage;
(3) a soiled utility room with counter, sink with four-inch handles, wall and under counter storage,
a flush-rim clinical sink or water closet with a device for cleaning bedpans and a means for washing
and sanitizing bedpans and other utensils;
(4) a nurses’ toilet and locker space for coats, purses, and personal belongings;
(5) an audio-visual nurse-patient call system arranged to ensure that a patient’s call in the facility
is noted at a staffed station;
(6) a soiled linen storage room;
(7) a clean linen storage room;
(8) a nourishment station in an area enclosed with walls and doors which contains work space,
cabinets and refrigerated storage, and a small stove, microwave oven or hot plate; and
(9) one nurses’ station consisting of desk space for writing, storage space for office supplies, storage
space for patients’ records and space for nurses’ call equipment.

(m) Clean linen storage shall be provided in a separate room from bulk supplies. Clean linen for
nursing units may be stored in closed carts, or cabinets in the clean utility room, or in a linen closet
on the unit floor.

(n) A soiled linen room shall be provided.

(p) Stretcher and wheelchair storage shall be provided.

(q) Bulk storage shall be provided at the rate of five square feet of floor area per bed.

(a) 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 and shall activate a visible signal in the
corridor at the patient’s or resident’s door. In multi-corridor nursing units, additional visible
signals shall be installed at corridor intersections. In rooms containing two or more calling stations,
indicating lights shall be provided at each 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. A nurses’ call emergency button shall
be provided for patients’ and residents’ use at each patient and resident toilet, bath, and shower.

(g) The Administrator shall assure that isolation facilities are available and used for any patient
admitted or retained with a communicable disease.
(h) Each facility shall have a control system or procedure to aid staff in the supervision of patients who wander or are disoriented. This requirement shall apply to new and existing facilities.

**Shower/Tub Room**

(a) Handgrips shall be provided for all toilet and bath facilities used by patients. Handrails shall be provided on both sides of all corridors used by patients.

**New Construction: Nursing Unit**

**Summary:** Minimum Requirements per Unit/Station; Work Station; Storage; Isolation Facilities; Handgrips; Resident Call System; Stretcher/Wheelchair Storage; Two-Way Voice Communication