Nurses’ Station & Resident Call System

The following shall be located in or readily available to each nursing unit:

(1) Nurses’ station with space for nurse’s charting, doctor’s charting, storage for administrative supplies, and handwashing facilities. (This handwashing facility could serve the drug distribution station, if conveniently located.)

(2) Toilet room(s) for nursing staff.

(3) Room for examination and treatment of residents may be omitted if all resident rooms are single-bed rooms. This room shall have a minimum floor area of 120 sq. ft. (11.15 sq. m.), excluding space for vestibule, toilet, closets and work counters (whether fixed or moveable). The minimum room dimension shall be 10’0” (3.05 m.) and shall contain a lavatory or sink equipped for handwashing, a work counter, storage facilities, and a desk, counter, or shelf space for writing.

(4) Clean workroom/clean holding room.
   (A) The clean workroom shall contain a work counter, handwashing, and storage facilities.
   (B) The clean holding room shall be part of a system for storage and distribution of clean and sterile supply materials and shall be similar to the clean workroom except that the work counter and handwashing facilities may be omitted.

(5) Soiled workroom/soiled holding room.
   (A) The soiled workroom shall contain a clinical sink or equivalent flushing rim fixture, sink equipped for handwashing, work counter, waste receptacle, and linen receptacle.
   (B) A soiled holding room shall be part of a system for collection and disposal of soiled materials and shall be similar to the soiled workroom except that the clinical sink and work counter may be omitted.

(6) Drug distribution station. Provision shall be made for convenient and prompt 24 hour distribution of medicine to residents. This may be a medicine preparation room or unit, a self-contained medicine dispensing unit, or another approved system. If used, a medicine preparation room shall be under the nursing staff’s visual control and contain a work counter, refrigerator, and locked storage for biologicals and drugs and shall have a minimum area of 50 sq. ft. (4.65 sq. m.). A medicine dispensing unit may be located at the nurse's station, in the clean workroom, or in an alcove or other space under direct control of the nursing or pharmacy staff.

(7) Clean linen storage. Provide a separate closet or a designated area within the clean workroom. If a closed cart system is used, storage may be in an alcove.

(8) Equipment storage room. This shall be for equipment such as I.V. Stands, inhalators, air mattresses, and walkers. A parking for stretchers and wheelchairs shall be located out of path of normal traffic.

310:675-5-6. Physical therapy facilities
The following elements shall be provided in skilled nursing facilities:
(1) Treatment areas shall have space and equipment for all modalities to be utilized. Provision shall
be made for cubicle curtains around each individual treatment area, handwashing facility(ies) (One
lavatory or sink may serve more than one cubicle), and facilities for the collection of soiled linen
and other material.
(2) Exercise area.
(3) Storage for clean linen, supplies, and equipment.
(4) Resident’s dressing areas, showers, lockers, and toilet rooms.
(5) Service sink.

310:675-5. Occupational therapy facilities

The following elements shall be provided in skilled nursing facilities:
(1) Activities area shall include sink or lavatory and facilities for collection of waste products prior
to disposal.
(2) Storage for supplies and equipment. (May be planned and arranged for shared use by physical
therapy patients and staff.)
(3) Resident’s dressing areas, showers, lockers, and toilet rooms. (May be planned and arranged for
shared use by physical therapy patients and staff.)

310:675-5. Personal care unit

Separate room and appropriate equipment shall be provided for hair care and grooming needs of
residents.

310:675-5. Pharmacy unit

Provision shall be made for the procurement, storage, administration and accounting of drugs and
other pharmacy products. This may be by arrangement with convenient off-site facility but must
include provision for 24 hour emergency service.

(a) Facility storage. General storage room(s) shall have a total area of not less than ten (10) sq. ft.
(.93 sq. m.) per bed and shall generally be concentrated in one area.

(b) Resident storage. Separate storage space with provisions for locking and security control shall
be provided for resident’s personal effects which are not kept in resident’s room.

(4) Nurses’ call system.

(A) General resident 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 resident’s door, in the clean workroom, in the soiled workroom, and in the
nourishment station of the nursing unit. 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. Nurse’s calling system 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.
(B) **Resident's emergency.** A nurse’s call emergency button shall be provided for resident’s use at each resident’s toilet, bath, and shower room. Such button shall be usable by a collapsed resident lying on the floor (inclusion of a pull cord will satisfy this item.) (5) Emergency electric service shall be provided in accordance with NFPA 76-A, 1977, Chapter 05, Essential Electrical Systems for Nursing Homes, etc.

**Shower/Tub Room**

(9) Residents’ bathing facilities. Bathtubs or showers shall be provided at the rate of at least one (1) for each twenty (20) beds which are not otherwise served by bathing facilities within residents' rooms. At least one bathtub shall be provided in each nursing unit. The Department may require more than one (1) bathtub or shower for each twenty (20) beds depending on the design of the facility and on the needs of any special population being served. Each tub or shower shall be in an individual room or enclosure which provides space for the private use of the bathing fixture, for drying and dressing, and for a wheelchair and an attendant. Showers in central bathing facilities shall be at least 4’0” (1.22 m.) square, without curbs, and designed to permit use by a wheelchair resident with an assisting attendant.

(10) Resident’s toilet facilities. The minimum dimensions of a room containing only a water closet shall be 3’0” (91 cm.) by 6’0” (1.83 m.). Additional space shall be provided if a lavatory is located within the same room. Water closets may be located to be usable by wheelchair residents. A toilet room shall be accessible to each central bathing area without going through the general corridor.

(11) Sterilizing facilities. A system for the sterilization of equipment and supplies shall be provided.

(3) Shower bases and tubs shall provide non-slip surfaces for standing residents.

**New Construction: Nursing Unit**

(B) All rooms containing bathtubs, sitz baths, showers, and water closets, subject to occupancy by residents, shall be equipped with doors and hardware which will permit access from the outside in any emergency. When such rooms have only one opening or are small, the doors shall be capable of opening outward or be otherwise designed to be opened without need to push against a resident who may have collapsed within the room.

(J) Grab bars shall be provided at all residents' toilets, showers, tubs, and sitz baths. The bar shall have 1 1/2” (3.8 cm.) clearance to walls and shall have sufficient strength and anchorage to sustain a concentrated load of 250 lbs. (113.4 kg.).

(K) Recessed soap dishes shall be provided in showers and bathrooms.

(M) Location and arrangement of handwashing facilities shall permit their proper use and operation.

(N) Lavatories and handwashing facilities shall be securely anchored to withstand an applied vertical load of not less than 250 lbs. (113.4 kg.) on the front of the fixture.

(O) Mirrors shall be arranged for convenient use by residents in wheelchairs as well as by residents in a standing position. Mirrors shall not be installed at handwashing fixtures in food preparation areas.
Provisions for hand drying shall be included at all handwashing facilities. These shall be single-use separate, individual paper or cloth units enclosed in such a way as to provide protection against the dust or soil and ensure single unit dispensing. Hot air dryers are permitted provided that installation is such to preclude possible contamination by recirculation of air.

**Summary:** Minimum Requirements per Unit/Station; Examination and Treatment Room Size; Equipment Storage; Sterilizing Facilities; Physical Care Facilities; Personal Care Area; Shower/Tub Ratio; Shower Dimensions; New Construction