Nurses’ Station & Resident Call System

§ 205.7. Basement or cellar.

Basements or cellars may be used for storage, laundry, kitchen, heat, electric and water equipment. Approval from the Department's Division of Nursing Care Facilities shall be secured before areas may be used for other purposes, such as physical therapy, central supply, occupational therapy and the like.

§ 205.21. Special care room.

(a) Provisions shall be made for isolating a resident as necessary in a single room which is ventilated to the outside as set forth in § 205.66 (relating to special ventilation requirements for new construction). For new construction, there shall be an adjoining private bathroom which contains a toilet, lavatory and either a standard size tub or a shower.

(b) Provisions shall be available to identify this room with appropriate precautionary signs.

§ 205.28. Nurses’ station.

(a) A nurses’ station shall be located in each nursing unit, located as centrally as practical within the nursing unit. A common nurses’ station serving more than a single nursing unit may be permitted when the design of the project and method of operation indicate a satisfactory level of service. The size and facilities of the nurses’ station shall be increased appropriate to the number of beds served and additional staffing required.

(b) The nurses’ station may not be more than 120 feet from the most remote resident room served.

(c) The nurses’ station shall have facilities for:

(1) A nurses’ call system.
(2) Charting and supplies.
(3) Medication storage and preparation, which may be within the clean workroom, if a self-contained cabinet is provided. The medication storage cabinet shall be locked. Mechanical ventilation shall be provided in this workroom. If a medication cart is used, provisions shall be made to lock the cart or to place the cart when not in use in a safe area that can be locked. The cart may not be stored in the corridor.
(4) A double-locked narcotic compartment within the medication area.

§ 205.31. Storage.

General storage space shall be provided for storage of supplies, furniture, equipment, residents’ possessions and the like. Space provided for this purpose shall be commensurate with the needs of the nursing facility, but may not be less than 10 square feet per bed.
§ 205.33. Utility room.

(a) Provisions shall be made in each nursing unit near the nurses’ station for utility rooms. The area shall have separate soiled and clean workrooms. The rooms may not be more than 120 feet from the most remote room served. If one nursing station services several resident corridors, a soiled utility room shall be on each unit.

(b) Facilities for flushing and rinsing bedpans, such as a spray attachment for the clinical sink or a separate bedpan flusher, shall be provided in the soiled workroom of each nursing unit, unless bedpan flushing devices, together with bedpan lugs on toilets are provided in each resident’s toilet for this purpose. (c) Hand-washing facilities shall be available in the soiled and clean utility rooms.

§ 205.75. Supplies.

Adequate supplies shall be available at all times to meet the residents’ needs.

Shower/Tub Room

§ 205.36. Bathing facilities.

(a) The facility shall provide a general bathing area in each nursing unit to serve residents’ bedrooms which do not have adjoining bathrooms with a bathtub or shower.

(b) Bathing fixtures for either the tub or shower shall be provided at a ratio of one fixture per 15 beds or major fraction thereof.

(c) Unless bathing fixtures are located in a separate room, there shall be compartments to permit privacy. Cubicle curtains may provide this privacy.

(d) Each room or compartment shall provide space for the use of bathing fixtures, wheelchairs and dressing. Sufficient space shall be provided for the attendant who may need to assist the resident.

(e) Each bathing room shall include a toilet and lavatory. If more than one tub or shower is in the bathing room, privacy shall be provided at each bathing facility and at the toilet.

(f) Showers designed for wheelchair use may be no less than 4 feet square, shall be without curbs and shall have handrails and curtains.

(g) Water controls for handicapped shower areas shall be located outside the shower stall. Other shower areas may have standard installation of shower controls.

(h) The facility shall have at least one bathtub in each centralized bath area on each floor that is accessible from three sides with a minimum of 3 feet clearance on each side and 4 feet clearance from the foot of the tub to adjacent wall or obstruction.

§ 205.37. Equipment for bathrooms.

(a) Grab bars shall be installed as necessary at each tub and shower for safety and convenience. Grab bars, accessories and anchorage shall have sufficient strength to sustain a weight of 250 pounds for 5 minutes.
(b) The general bathroom or shower room used by residents shall be provided with one emergency signal bell located in close proximity to the tub or shower and which registers at the nursing station. This is in addition to the emergency signal bell located at each toilet unless a single bell can be reached by the resident from both the toilet and tub or shower.

(c) Provisions shall be made available to get residents in and out of bathtubs in a safe way to prevent injury to residents and personnel. The facility shall provide appropriate supervision and assistance to ensure the safety of all residents being bathed.

(d) A dressing area shall be provided immediately adjacent to the shower stall and bathtub. In the dressing area, there shall be provisions for keeping clothes dry while bathing.

(e) The facility shall ensure that water for baths and showers is at a safe and comfortable temperature before the resident is bathed.

**New Construction: Nursing Unit**

**Summary:** Minimum Requirements per Unit/Station; Basements or Cellars; Special Care Room; Proportion; Storage; Utility Room; Supplies; Maximum Distance from Unit/Station; Medication Cart; Maximum Distance from Soiled/Clean Workrooms; Shower/Tub Ratio; Privacy; Grab Bars; Dressing Area