Nurses’ Station & Resident Call System

**44:04:02:07. Handwashing facilities.** Handwashing facilities consisting of hot and cold running water dispensed through a mixing faucet controlled with blade handles or other handsfree controls, a towel dispenser with single-service towels or a hand-drying device, and hand cleanser must be located in dietary areas, utility rooms, nurses’ stations, pharmacies, laboratories, nurseries, surgical suites, delivery suites, physical therapy rooms, restorative therapy rooms, examination and treatment rooms, emergency rooms, laundry, and all toilet rooms not directly connected to patient or resident rooms. A handwashing facility must be provided in each patient or resident room or in a bath or toilet room connected directly to the room. If existing faucets and controls are replaced or changed, they must be replaced with mixing faucets controlled with blade handles or other handsfree controls.

(3) Provide a call system for each patient or resident bed and in all toilet rooms and bathing facilities routinely used by patients or residents. The call system must be capable of being easily activated by the patient or resident and must register at a station serving the unit. A wireless call system may be used;

**44:04:02:18.01. Room required for isolation techniques.** When a physician determines isolation is required, a private room with necessary equipment, including handwashing facilities, to carry out isolation techniques must be provided. Isolation of a patient or resident with suspected or confirmed tuberculosis in a communicable form requires the room to have a negative air pressure with regard to the corridor and connecting rooms and a minimum of six air exchanges an hour exhausted to the outside air.

**44:04:02:18.02. Office required for social services activities.** An office which is large enough to accommodate private consultation and record keeping and which is easily accessible to patients or residents must be provided for social services activities.

**Shower/Tub Room**

(2) Provide securely constructed and conveniently located grab bars in all toilet rooms and bathing areas used by patients or residents;

**New Construction: Nursing Unit**

**44:04:13:03. Service area in care units.** Each care unit must contain a service area which includes the following, except when the service is not required for licensure category:

(1) Nurses’ station with convenient access to handwashing facilities;
(2) Nurses’ charting;
(3) Doctors’ charting;
(4) Communications;
(5) Storage for supplies and nurses’ personal effects;
(6) Nurses’ toilet room;
(7) Nurses’ office;
(8) Clean workroom for the storage and assembly of supplies for nursing procedures which contains a work counter and sink;
(9) Soiled workroom which contains a work counter with a two-compartment sink with drainboards on each side, handwashing facility, a waste receptacle, soiled linen receptacles, a clinical sink with an exposed water trap seal, siphon jet or blowout action, and a bedpan flushing device;
(10) Medicine room adjacent to the nurses’ station with a sink, refrigerator, locked storage, and facilities for preparation and administration of medication;
(11) Clean linen storage area in an enclosed storage space;
(12) Nourishment station containing refrigerated storage, self-dispensing ice machine, and a sink for serving between-meal nourishments;
(13) Equipment storage room on each patient or resident wing or floor for storage of patient or resident care equipment such as intravenous stands, inhalators, air mattresses, walkers, wheelchairs, and similar bulky equipment;
(14) Patient or resident bathing facilities containing one shower, bathtub, or whirlpool for each 15 beds not individually served. Whirlpool units with lifts may serve 30 beds;
(15) Janitor’s closet for storage of housekeeping supplies and equipment which contains a floor receptor or service sink. The janitor’s closet space and equipment may be incorporated into the soiled utility room;
(16) Isolation facilities for the use of those prone to infections as well as those suffering from infections. One isolation room must be provided for each 30 acute-care beds. The entry into the isolation room must be through an anteroom which is equipped with handwashing, gowns, air mattresses, walkers, wheelchairs, and similar bulky equipment;
(17) Playroom facilities for pediatric patients; and
(18) Multipurpose rooms for staff, patients or residents, and patients’ or residents’ families for conferences, reports, education, training sessions, and consultation. If outpatient therapy services are offered, the therapy unit must provide access without traversing inpatient areas, locked records storage, handsinks located convenient to treatment areas, private room with handsink for speech language pathology, cubicle curtains for privacy at treatment areas, and the therapy unit must be sized and equipped to accommodate the therapy modalities offered.

44:04:13:03.01. Social services office. In hospitals and nursing facilities, a social services office which is in accordance with § 44:04:02:18.02 must be provided.

44:04:13:07. Employee facilities. The locker room for employees must have lockers and a separate toilet room.

**44:04:13:44. Nurses call system.** A nurses call system must be provided for patient or resident use at each bed that will register a call from the patient or resident both visually and audibly at the nurses’ call station and actuate a visual signal at the patient or resident room door, and in the clean workroom, soiled workroom, and nourishment station of the nursing unit. In multicorridor nursing units, additional visible signals must be installed at corridor intersections. Nurses call systems which provide two-way voice communication must be equipped with an indicating light at each calling station which lights and remains lighted as long as the voice circuit is operating. An emergency calling station convenient for patient or resident use must be provided at each patient or resident toilet, bath, or shower and at toilets serving patients or residents in laboratory, physical therapy, emergency, and X ray departments. An emergency nurses calling station must be provided for nurses’ use in each operating, delivery, recovery, emergency, and intensive nursing care room and in nurseries, supervised wards for mental patients, and rooms for children.

**Summary:** Resident Call System (New Construction); Office Space; Hand-washing Facilities; Isolation; Grab Bars; New Construction