Nurses’ Station & Resident Call System Location of the resident care unit.

The nursing home must ensure that:

(1) Each resident care unit is located to minimize through traffic to any general service, diagnostic, treatment, or administrative area; and

Required service areas on resident care units.

(1) The nursing home must ensure each resident care unit has at least the following required service areas:
   (a) A staff work station;
   (b) A medicine storage and preparation area;
   (c) A utility room that maintains separated clean and soiled functions;
   (d) Storage space for linen, other supplies, and equipment; and
   (e) Housekeeping services and janitor’s closet.

Staff work stations on resident care units.

(1) On each unit, the nursing home must have a staff work station appropriate to the needs of staff using the space. At a minimum, the nursing home must equip the area with:
   (a) A charting surface;
   (b) A rack or other storage for current health records;
   (c) Storage for record and clerical supplies;
   (d) A telephone;
   (e) A resident call system; and
   (f) A clock.

Call systems on resident care units.

The nursing home must provide a system that meets the following standards:

(1) A wired or wireless communication system which registers a call by distinctive light at the room door and by distinctive light and audible tone at the staff work station. The system must be equipped to receive resident calls from:
   (a) The bedside of each resident;
   (b) Every common area, dining and activity areas, common use toilet rooms, and other areas used by residents; and
   (c) Resident toilet, bath and shower rooms.

(2) An emergency signal device that meets the needs of the resident and adapted for easy reach by the resident. A signal device must be adapted to meet resident needs and, in the dementia unit, may be adapted for staff and family use, see WAC 388-97-2900.

Utility service rooms on resident care units.
(1) All nursing homes must:
(a) Provide utility rooms designed, equipped, and maintained to ensure separation of clean and sterile supplies and equipment from those that are contaminated;
(b) Ensure that each clean utility room has:
   (i) A work counter;
   (ii) A sink equipped with single use hand drying towels and soap for handwashing; and
   (iii) Closed storage units for supplies and small equipment; and
(c) Ensure that each soiled utility room has:
   (i) A work counter and a sink large enough to totally submerge the items being cleaned and disinfected;
   (ii) Storage for cleaning supplies and other items, including equipment, to meet nursing home needs;
   (iii) Locked storage for cleaning agents, disinfectants and other caustic or toxic agents;
   (iv) Adequate space for waste containers, linen hampers, and other large equipment; and
   (v) Adequate ventilation to remove odors and moisture.

Drug facilities on resident care units.

The nursing home must provide an area designed and equipped for drug preparation and locked storage convenient to each work station. The nursing home must ensure:

(1) The drug facilities are well illuminated, ventilated, and equipped with a work counter, sink with hot and cold running water, and drug storage units;

(2) The drug storage units are one or more of the following:
   (a) Locked cabinetry constructed in accordance with board of pharmacy regulations for drug storage which has:
      (i) Separately keyed storage for Schedule II and III controlled substances; and
      (ii) Segregated storage of different residents' drugs; or
   (b) An automated medication distribution device or storage.

(3) There is a refrigerator for storage of thermolabile drugs in the drug facility;

(4) Locks and keys for drug facilities are different from other locks and keys within the nursing home; and

Linen storage on resident care units.

The nursing home must provide:
(1) A clean area for storage of clean linen and other bedding. This may be an area within the clean utility room;
(2) A soiled linen area for the collection and temporary storage of soiled linen. This may be within the soiled utility room; and

Resident isolation rooms.

If a nursing home provides an isolation room, the nursing home must ensure the room is uncarpeted and contains:
(1) A handwashing sink with water supplied through a mixing valve;
(2) Its own adjoining toilet room containing a bathing facility.

**Call signal device in resident rooms.**

The nursing home must provide a resident call signal device that complies with WAC 388-97-2280.

**Specialized rehabilitation.**

(1) If nursing homes initially licensed after October 1, 1981 provide inpatient specialized rehabilitation, they must ensure that those services provide:
(a) Easy access in general service areas;
(b) Exercise, treatment, and supportive equipment as required by the narrative program in the construction documents;
(c) Adequate space for exercise equipment and treatment tables with sufficient work space on each side;
(d) Privacy cubicle curtains on tracks or the equivalent around treatment areas;
(e) A sink in the treatment area and a toilet and handwashing sink in a toilet room nearby;
(f) Space and a desk or equivalent for administrative, clerical, interviewing, and consultative functions;
(g) Adequate enclosed storage cabinets for clean linen and supplies and locked storage for cleaning chemicals in the rehabilitation room or nearby janitor’s closet;
(h) Adequate storage space for large equipment;
(i) A janitor’s closet close to the area;
(j) Soiled linen storage; and
(k) A separate room or area for hydrotherapy tanks, or the equivalent, if provided.

(2) **For any new construction** under WAC 388-97-2160, nursing homes licensed before October 1, 1981, must comply with the requirements in subsection (1) of this section.

**Outpatient rehabilitation.**

The nursing home must ensure that facilities with outpatient programs provide:
(1) A designated reception and waiting room or area and space for interviewing or counseling individual outpatients and their families;
(2) Adequate space for the program so that disruption to designated resident care units is minimized;
(3) Accessible toilet and shower facilities nearby;
(4) Lockers or a safe place to store outpatient personal belongings;
(5) A separate room or area for hydrotherapy tanks, or the equivalent, if provided; and

The nursing home must:
(1) Provide adequate storage space for wheelchairs and other ambulation equipment;
(2) Ensure stored equipment does not impinge upon the required corridor space; and

**Storage of resident room equipment in a new building or addition.**

The nursing home must provide separate storage for extra pillows and blankets for each bed. This may be in a location convenient to the resident room or combined with the wardrobe or closet if it does not impinge upon the required space for clothing.
Safety — Poisons and nonmedical chemicals.

The nursing home must ensure that poisons and nonmedicinal chemicals are stored in containers identified with warning labels. The containers must be stored:
(1) In a separate locked storage when not in use by staff; and
(2) Separate from drugs used for medicinal purposes.

Safety — Storage of equipment and supplies.

The nursing home must ensure that the manner in which equipment and supplies are stored does not jeopardize the safety of residents, staff, or the public.

Dementia care unit.

A nursing home that began operating a dementia care unit at any time after November 13, 1989, must meet all requirements of this section, WAC 388-97-2820 through 388-97-2920, and the resident care unit requirements of WAC 388-97-2220 through 388-97-2380. Refer to WAC

Dining areas on a dementia care unit.

(1) The nursing home must provide dining areas in the dementia care unit which may also serve as day areas for the unit.

(2) In a new building or addition, the dining, dayroom, and activity area or areas on the unit must provide a minimum of thirty square feet per resident.

Outdoor areas on a dementia care unit.

The nursing home must provide the dementia care unit with:

(1) Secured outdoor space and walkways;

(2) An ambulation area with accessible walking surfaces that:
(a) Are firm, stable, and free from cracks and abrupt changes with a maximum of one inch between sidewalk and adjoining landscape areas;
(b) Have slip-resistant surfaces if subject to wet conditions; and
(c) Sufficient space and outdoor furniture with flexibility in arrangement of the furniture to accommodate residents who use wheelchairs and mobility aids.

(3) Nontoxic outdoor plants in areas accessible to residents.

(4) In new construction the outdoor areas must also meet the requirements of WAC 388-97-3740.

Indoor areas on a dementia care unit.

The nursing home must provide the dementia care unit with:

(1) Indoor ambulation areas that meet the needs of the residents and are maintained free of equipment; and
(2) Nontoxic indoor plants in areas accessible to residents.

Ambulation route on a dementia care unit in a new building or addition.
The nursing home must ensure that the dementia care unit has a continuous ambulation route which may include outdoor ambulation areas and allows the resident to return to the resident’s starting point without reversing direction.

**Physical plant on a dementia care unit.**

The nursing home must:

1. Provide a staff toilet room with a handwashing sink;
2. Ensure that floors, walls, and ceiling surfaces display contrasting color for identification:
   a. Surfaces may have a disguise design to obscure or conceal areas that residents should not enter, except for exit doors and doorways; and
   b. Exit doors must be marked so that they are readily distinguishable from adjacent construction and the way of exit travel is obvious and direct.
3. Ensure that door thresholds are one-half inch high or less;
4. Provide a signal device adapted:
   a. To meet residents’ needs; and
   b. For staff and family use, if necessary.
5. Ensure that the public address system is used only for emergency use; and
6. Refer to WAC 388-97-470(2) for dementia care unit exceptions to individual temperature controls.

**Special egress control devices on a dementia care unit.**

In dementia care units the nursing home must:

1. Have proof that required approvals for any special egress control devices were obtained from the state fire marshal, department of social and health services, and the local official who enforces the International Building Code and International Fire Code; and
2. **In a new building or addition, or when adding** special egress control devices to be used on doors and gates which are a part of the exit system, the building must:
   a. Have obtained approval from department of health construction review and the local official who enforces the International Building Code and International Fire Code;
   b. Have an approved automatic fire alarm system;
   c. Have an approved supervised automatic fire sprinkler system which is electrically interconnected with the fire alarm system; and
   d. Have a system which must:
      i. Automatically release if power to the system is lost;
      ii. Automatically release with activation of the building’s fire alarm system;
      iii. Release with an override switch installed at each staff work station or at a constantly staff attended location within the building; and
      iv. Have directions for releasing the device at each egress controlled door and gate; and
   e. Prohibit the use of keyed locks at all doors and gates in all egress pathways.
Shower/Tub Room Resident bathing facilities or rooms.

The nursing home must ensure:

(1) Each resident room is equipped with or located near bathing facilities;

(2) At least one bathing unit for no more than thirty residents that is not located in a room served by an adjoining bathroom;

(3) At least one bathing device for immersion per floor;

(4) At least one roll in shower or equivalent on each resident care unit:
(a) Designed and equipped for unobstructed ease of shower chair entry and use; and
(b) With a spray attachment equipped with a backflow prevention device.

(5) Resident bathing equipment is smooth, cleanable, and able to be disinfected after each use.

Locks in toilet and bathing facilities.

The nursing home must ensure:
(1) All lockable toilet facilities and bathrooms have a readily available means of unlocking from the outside; and
(2) Locks are operable from the inside with a single motion.

New Construction: Nursing Unit

(2) In new construction, the resident care unit, and the services to support resident care and nursing needs, are designed to serve a maximum of sixty beds on the same floor.

(2) In new construction resident care units may share required services if the units are in close proximity to each other and the combined units serve a total of not more than sixty residents; except the nursing home must have a separate staff work station on a secured dementia care unit.

(2) In new construction the work station space must be open to the corridor.

(2) In new construction:
(a) A resident room must not be more than ninety feet from a clean utility room and a soiled utility room;
(b) The clean utility room and the soiled utility room must be separate rooms;
(c) Each soiled utility room must contain:
(i) A double-compartment sink with inside dimensions of each compartment deep enough to totally submerge items being cleaned and disinfected;
(ii) Sufficient, available work surface on each side of the sink to adequately process and dry equipment with a minimum of three feet of work surface on the clean side;
(iii) Drying/draining racks for wet equipment;
(iv) Work counters, sinks, and other fixed equipment arranged to prevent intermingling of clean and contaminated items during the cleaning process; and
(v) A siphon jet type clinic service sink or equivalent installed on the soiled side of the utility room away from the door.

(d) The nursing home's space for waste containers, linen hampers, and other large equipment must not block work areas; and
(e) The utility rooms must meet the ventilation requirements of Table 6 in WAC 388-97-4040.
(5) **In new construction**, the drug facility must be a separate room.
(3) **In new construction**, storage for linen barrels and clean linen carts.

**Resident isolation rooms.**

If a nursing home provides an isolation room, the nursing home must ensure the room is uncarpeted and contains:
(3) **In new construction**, the handwashing sink must be located between the entry door and the nearest bed.
(6) **For new construction**, in each bathing unit containing more than one bathing facility:
(a) Each bathtub, shower, or equivalent, is located in a separate room or compartment with three solid walls;
(b) The entry wall may be a "shower" type curtain or equivalent;
(c) The area for each bathtub and shower is sufficient to accommodate a shower chair, an attendant, and provide visual privacy for bathing, drying, and dressing;
(d) Shower and tub surfaces are slip-resistant;
(e) Bathing areas are constructed of materials that are impervious to water and cleanable; and
(f) Grab bars are installed on all three sides of a shower with the shower head grab bar being "L" shaped.

**Specialized rehabilitation.**

(2) **For any new construction** under WAC 388-97-2160, nursing homes licensed before October 1, 1981, must comply with the requirements in subsection (1) of this section.

**Outpatient rehabilitation.**

The nursing home must ensure that facilities with outpatient programs provide:
(6) **In new construction**, required access must come from the exterior without passing through the interior of the facility.
(3) **In new construction**, provide adequate storage of four square feet or more of storage space per bed which does not impinge upon required corridor space.

**General storage in new construction.**

A nursing home must have general storage space of not less than five square feet per bed in addition to the closets and storage required in WAC 388-97-2560.

**Interview space in new construction.**

The nursing home must have interview spaces for private interviews relating to social service and admission.

**Offices in new construction.**

The nursing home must provide:
(1) Office space convenient to the work area for the administrator, the director of nursing services, medical records staff, social services staff, activities director, and other personnel as appropriate;
(2) Work space for physicians and outside consultants;
(3) Space for locked storage of health records which provides for fire and water protection; and
(4) Space for the safe storage and handling of financial and business records.
Inservice education space in new construction.

The nursing home must provide space for employee inservice education that will not infringe upon resident space.

Staff areas in new construction.

The nursing home must ensure a lounge, lockers, and toilets are provided convenient to the work areas for employees and volunteers.

Visiting and private space in new construction.

The nursing home must design a separate room or areas for residents to have family and friends visit and for residents to spend time alone. The nursing home must ensure these areas provide:

1) Space which facilitates conversation and privacy; and
2) Access to a common-use toilet facility.

Pharmacies in new construction.

The nursing home must ensure that an on-site pharmacy meets the requirements of the Washington state board of pharmacy per chapters 18.64 RCW and 246-865 WAC.

Accessories in new construction.

The nursing home must provide the following accessories with the necessary backing, if required, for mounting:

1) Usable countertop area and mirror at each handwashing sink in toilet rooms and resident rooms;
2) Towel or robe hooks at each handwashing sink in resident rooms and at each bathing facility;
3) A robe hook at each bathing facility, toilet room and in examination room or therapy area, including outpatient therapy rooms;
4) A securely mounted toilet paper holder properly located within easy reach of the user at each toilet fixture;
5) Sanitary seat covers at each public and employee use toilet;
6) Open front toilet seats on all toilets;
7) Dispensers for paper towels and handwashing soap at each handwashing sink, and bathing facility;
8) Sanitary napkin dispensers and disposers in public and employee women's toilet rooms; and
9) Grab bars that are easily cleanable and resistant to corrosion and securely mounted.

Handwashing sinks in new construction.

The nursing home must provide a handwashing sink in each toilet room and exam room.

Drinking fountains in new construction.

Where drinking fountains are installed, the nursing home must ensure the fountains are of the inclined jet, sanitary type.

Mixing valves or mixing faucets in new construction.
The nursing home must provide each fixture, except toilet fixtures and special use fixtures, with hot and cold water through a mixing valve or mixing faucet.

**Spouts in new construction.**

The nursing home must ensure all lavatories and sinks in resident rooms, resident toilet rooms, and utility and medication areas have gooseneck spouts, without aerators in areas requiring infection control.

**Faucet controls in new construction.**

The nursing home must provide wrist blade, single-lever controls or their equivalent at all sinks and lavatories. The nursing home must:
1. Provide at least four inch wrist blades and/or single-levers;
2. Provide sufficient space for full open and closed operation; and
3. Color-code and label faucet controls to indicate "hot" and "cold."

**Summary:** Minimum Requirements per Unit/Station; Location; Service Areas; Work Stations; Call System; Drug Service; Utility Room; New Construction; Isolation Room; Rehabilitation; Dementia Care Unit; Storage; Roll-in Shower; Locks; Grab Bars; Linen Storage