Housekeeping/Laundry/Maintenance

Section 35.0 Housekeeping

35.1 A full-time employee of the facility shall be designated responsible for housekeeping services, supervision and training of housekeeping personnel.

35.2 Sufficient housekeeping and maintenance personnel shall be employed to maintain a comfortable, safe, clean, sanitary and orderly environment in the facility.

35.3 Written housekeeping policies and procedures shall be established in accordance with section 22.1 herein on Infection Control, for the operation of housekeeping services throughout the facility. Copies shall be available for all housekeeping personnel.

35.4 All parts of the home and its premises shall be kept clean, neat and free of litter and rubbish and offensive odors.

35.5 Equipment and supplies shall be provided for cleaning of all surfaces. Such equipment shall be maintained in a safe, sanitary condition and shall be properly stored.

35.6 Hazardous cleaning solutions, compounds, and substances shall be labeled, stored in a safe place, and kept in an enclosed section separate from other cleaning materials.

35.7 Cleaning shall be performed in a manner which will minimize the development and spread of pathogenic organisms in the home environment.

35.8 Exhaust ducts from kitchens and other cooking areas shall be equipped with proper filters and cleaned at regular intervals. The ducts shall be cleaned as often as necessary and inspected by the facility no less than twice a year.

35.9 Facilities contracting with outside resources for housekeeping services shall require conformity with existing regulations.

35.10 Each facility shall be maintained free from insects and rodents through the operation of a pest control program.

Section 36.0 Laundry Services

36.1 Each facility shall make provisions for the cleaning of all linens and other washable goods.

36.2 Facilities providing laundry service shall have adequate space and equipment for the safe and effective operation of laundry service and, in unsewered areas, shall obtain approval of the sewage system by the licensing agency to ensure its adequacy.
36.3 Written policies and procedures for the operation of the laundry service including special
procedures for the handling and processing of contaminated linens, shall be established in
accordance with section 22.0 herein on Infection Control.

36.4 There shall be distinct areas for the separate storage and handling of clean and soiled linens.

a) The soiled linen area and the washing area shall be negatively pressurized or otherwise
protected to prevent introduction of airborne contaminants.

b) The clean linen area and the drying area shall be physically divorced from the soiled linen area
and the washing area.

36.5 All soiled linen shall be placed in closed containers prior to transportation.

36.6 To safeguard clean linens from cross-contamination they shall be transported in containers
used exclusively for clean linens which shall be kept covered at all times while in transit and stored
in areas designated exclusively for this purpose.

36.7 A quantity of linen equivalent to three times the number of beds including the set of linen
which is actually in use shall be available and in good repair at all times.

36.8 Facilities contracting for services with an outside resource in accordance with section 18.3
herein shall require conformity with these regulations.

43.1 Each residential area, as defined in section 1.35 herein, shall have at least the following:

d) appropriate clean and soiled utility space

48.1 Medical Waste:

Medical waste as defined in the Rules and Regulations Governing the Generation, Transportation,
Storage, Treatment, Management & Disposal of Regulated Medical Waste in Rhode Island (DEM-
DAHMW-01-92), Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (June 1994), shall be
managed in accordance with the provisions of the aforementioned regulations.

48.2 Other Waste:

Wastes which are not classified as infectious waste, hazardous wastes or which are not otherwise
regulated by law or rule may be disposed in dumpsters or load packers provided the following
precautions are maintained:

a) Dumpsters shall be tightly covered, leak proof, inaccessible to rodents and animals, and placed
on concrete slabs preferably graded to a drain. Water supply shall be available within easy
accessibility for washing down of the area. In addition, the pick-up schedule shall be maintained
with more frequent pick-ups when required. The dumping site of waste materials must be in
sanitary landfills approved by the Department of Environmental Management.

b) Load packers must conform to the same restrictions required for dumpsters and in addition, load
packers shall be:

i. high enough off the ground to facilitate the cleaning of the underneath areas of the stationary
equipment; and
ii. the loading section shall be constructed and maintained to prevent rubbish from blowing from said area site.

c) **Recyclable waste**: Containers for recyclable waste, including paper and cardboard, shall be tightly covered, leak proof, inaccessible to rodents and animals, and placed on concrete slabs preferably graded to a drain. In addition, the pick-up schedule shall be maintained with more frequent pick-ups when required.

**Section 50.0 Waste Disposal Systems**

50.1 Any new facility shall be connected to a public sanitary sewer if available, or otherwise shall be subject to the requirements of reference 18.

**Section 42.0 Facility Requirements for the Physically Handicapped**

42.1 Each facility shall be accessible to, and functional for, residents, personnel and the public. All necessary accommodations shall be made to meet the needs of persons with mobility disabilities, or sight, hearing and coordination or perception disabilities in accordance with reference 19.  

42.2 Blind, non-ambulatory, physically handicapped or residents with mobility disabilities which limit self-preservation capability shall not be housed above the street level floor unless the facility is equipped with an elevator and meets other requirements of reference 19. Further, the facility must meet one of the following as defined in the N.F.P.A. Standards No. 220:

a) is of fire resistive construction, one (1) hour protected non-combustible construction; or

b) is fully sprinklered one (1) hour protected ordinary construction; or

c) is fully sprinklered one (1) hour protected wood frame construction.

**Corridors, Floors, and Signage**

39.2 All steps, stairs and corridors shall be suitably lighted, both day and night. Stairs used by residents shall have banisters, handrails or other types of support. All stair treads shall be well maintained to prevent hazards.

**Lighting, Noise, Temperature (HVAC), and Odors**

39.3 All rooms utilized by residents shall have proper ventilation and shall have outside openings with satisfactory screens. Shades or Venetian blinds and draperies shall be provided for each window.

**Section 41.0 Emergency Power**

41.1 The facility shall provide an emergency source of electrical power necessary to protect the health and safety of residents in the event the normal electrical supply is interrupted.

a) Such emergency power system shall supply power adequate at least for: (1) lighting all means of egress; (2) equipment to maintain detection, alarm and extinguishing systems; and (3) life support systems, where applicable.
b) Where life support systems are used, emergency electrical service shall be provided by an emergency generator located on the premises.

Section 47.0 *Plumbing*

47.1 All plumbing shall be installed in such a manner as to prevent back siphonage or cross connections between potable and non-potable water supplies in accordance with reference 23.

47.2 Fixtures from which grease is discharged may be served by a line in which a grease trap is installed in accordance with standards of reference 23. The grease trap shall be cleaned sufficiently often to sustain efficient operation.

Section 49.0 *Water Supply*

49.1 Water shall be distributed to conveniently located taps and fixtures throughout the building and shall be adequate in volume and pressure for all purposes including fire fighting.

a) In resident areas, hot water temperatures shall not be less than 100 degrees Fahrenheit nor exceed 110 degrees Fahrenheit (plus or minus two degrees). Thermometers (accuracy of which can be plus or minus two degrees) shall be provided in each residential area to check water temperature periodically on that unit and at each site where residents are immersed or showered.

b) Thermostatic or pressure balanced mixing valves are required at each site or fixture used for immersion or showering of residents. Thermometers and tactical (skin sense) method shall be used to verify the appropriateness of the water temperature prior to each use.

c) After 1 July 1991, in addition to temperature regulating devices controlling the generation of domestic hot water, hot water supply(ies) to resident care areas shall be regulated by anti-scalding, water tempering or mixing valves (approved by the director or his/her designee) in order to maintain the temperature standards of 47.1 a).

Section 51.0 *Maintenance*

51.1 All essential mechanical, electrical and resident care equipment shall be maintained in safe operating condition and logs or records shall be maintained of periodic inspections.

Section 52.0 *Other Provisions*

52.1 Facilities shall make provisions to ensure that the following are maintained:

a) adequate and comfortable lighting levels in all areas in accordance with Appendix D;

b) limitation of sounds at comfort levels;

c) comfortable temperature levels for the residents in all parts of resident occupied areas with a centralized heating system to maintain a minimum of 70°F degrees Fahrenheit during the coldest periods;

d) adequate ventilation through windows or by mechanical means; and

e) corridors equipped with firmly secured handrails on each side.
f) **Heat relief:** Pursuant to section 23-17.5-27 of the Rhode Island General Laws, as amended, any nursing home facility which does not provide air conditioning in every patient room shall provide an air conditioned room or rooms in a residential section(s) of the facility to provide relief to patients when the outdoor temperature exceeds eighty (80) degrees Fahrenheit.

**Amenities**

43.1 Each residential area, as defined in section 1.35 herein, shall have at least the following:

e) a telephone with outside line.

**Outdoor Area**

39.4 Grounds surrounding the facility shall be accessible to and usable by residents and shall be maintained in an orderly and well-kept manner.

**New Construction: Facility-Wide**