Nurses' Station & Resident Call System

RULE §19.307 Resident Call System

(a) The nurse's station must be equipped to receive resident calls through a communication system from:
(1) resident rooms; and
(2) toilet and bathing facilities.

(b) The call cord does not have to be accessible in all parts of the room, but must be accessible to the resident. The system must be connected to on and off switches operable at each bed, toilet unit, and bathing unit.

(c) Each call entered into the system must activate a corridor dome light above the bedroom, bathroom, or toilet corridor door that opens onto a corridor.

(d) A visual signal at the nurses station must indicate the room from which the call was placed with an audible signal of sufficient amplitude to be clearly heard by nursing staff. The amplitude or pitch of the audible signal must not be irritating to residents or visitors.

(e) The system must be designed so calls entered into the system may be canceled only at the calling station. Intercom-type systems which meet this requirement are acceptable.

(a) Nurses station. A nurses station is an area designated as the focal point on all shifts for the administration and supervision of resident-care activities for a designated number of resident bedrooms.

(1) All resident bedroom corridors must be observable by direct line of sight or by mechanical means from a designated nurses station or auxiliary station. There must be at least one nurses station per floor in multi-storied buildings.

(2) If all resident bedroom corridors are observable by direct line of sight from inside the nurses station or from within 24 inches of the counter or hall of the nurses station, no auxiliary stations are required, even if resident bedrooms are more than 150 feet from the nurses station.

(3) When resident bedrooms are more than 150 feet from the nurses station and the adjacent corridors are not observable from the station by direct line of sight, an auxiliary station must be established and used.

(4) All corridors adjacent to resident bedrooms that are more than 150 feet from a designated nurses station or auxiliary station must be observable by direct line of sight from the designated nurses station or auxiliary station. Corridors located in the service area of an auxiliary station must be observable, as described in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection, at the auxiliary station.
(5) The 150-foot limitation described paragraphs (2)-(4) of this subsection may be increased to 165 feet in facilities or additions to facilities completed before August 10, 1983.

(b) Auxiliary station. Each auxiliary station must include a work area in which nursing personnel can document and maintain resident data, even if the facility's initial decision is to maintain clinical records at the nurses station.

(1) Auxiliary stations must be staffed by nursing personnel during all shifts.

(2) More than one auxiliary station may be assigned to a designated nurses station, regardless of the distance between stations. More than one corridor may be observed by mechanical means from a designated nurses station or auxiliary station.

(3) A nurse call system, located in the service area or a designated auxiliary station, must register calls at the nurses station to which it is assigned.

(4) Each auxiliary station must have an emergency electrical source adequate to power lights at the station.

(5) Medications and clinical records may be maintained at an auxiliary station.

(6) If a required auxiliary station does not already exist and the facility must establish a new auxiliary station, all applicable standards, particularly those pertaining to the physical plan and the Life Safety Code, must be observed. All renovations and structural changes require prior approval from the Texas Department of Human Services (DHS).

(7) All new construction completed after August 10, 1983, must allow direct line-of-sight observation of all resident bedroom corridors from the nurses station or auxiliary station.

c) Mechanical means for resident observation.

(1) The nursing facility may use mechanical means, such as closed-circuit television and mirrors, to observe residents in the facility.

(2) Closed-circuit television monitoring systems must meet the following criteria:
(A) The camera(s) must be placed to view the entire corridor length, without any "blind spots."
(B) The camera(s) must be capable of providing recognizable images, in minimum and maximum light levels, for the complete viewing area.
(C) The monitor(s) must be installed and be clearly visible to persons in the nurses station or auxiliary station who are assigned to the area monitored by the camera.
(D) The system must be supplied with emergency power that enables the system to function during electrical service failures.
(E) Each camera must have its own separate monitor.
(F) If they perform the minimum basic functions specified in subparagraphs (A)-(D) of this paragraph, television monitoring systems installed before March 1984 may remain in service until the equipment is replaced or the system is expanded. Replacement systems or new component equipment must satisfy subparagraphs (A)-(E) of this paragraph.

(3) Mirrors must meet the following criteria:
(A) The mounting height of the mirror must be no less than six feet and eight inches from the floor to the bottom of the mirror.
(B) The mirror(s) must not extend more than 3-1/2 inches from the face of the corridor wall, unless the bottom of the mirror is more than seven feet and six inches above the floor.

(C) The mirror image must be clear enough that individuals can be recognized, in minimum and maximum light levels, throughout the viewing area.

(4) The monitoring systems described in this section must not be used to deny privacy to staff or residents.

(d) Resident call system. Each nurses station must be equipped to register residents' calls through a communication system from resident areas. See §19.307 of this title (relating to Resident Call System) for specific requirements.

(e) Medication storage area. There must be sufficient, lockable, enclosed medicine storage spaces, medicine room, or medication cart. The medication storage area must be furnished with a refrigerator. There must be sufficient space available for a medication preparation area equipped with a sink having hot and cold water. When not in use, the medication cart must be secured in a designated area. Only authorized personnel must have access to the medication storage area and the medication cart. Medication storage and preparation areas must be adequately ventilated and temperature controlled. See §19.1501 of this title (relating to Pharmacy Services).

(f) Clean utility room. A clean utility room must be provided and must contain a sink with hot and cold water. It must be part of a system for storage and distribution of clean and sterile supply materials and equipment.

(g) Soiled utility room. A soiled utility room must be provided and contain a flushing fixture and a sink with hot and cold water. It must be part of a system for collection and cleaning or disposal of soiled utensils or materials.

(h) Soiled linen room. Soiled linen rooms must be provided as needed commensurate with the type of laundry system used. In relation to adjacent areas, a negative air pressure must be provided with air exhausted through ducts to the exterior. Air must be exhausted continually whenever there are soiled linens in the room. A soiled linen room may be combined with a soiled utility room.

(i) Clean linen storage. Clean linen storage must be provided, conveniently located to resident bedroom areas.

(q) Storage rooms. General and/or specific storage areas must be provided as needed and required for safe and efficient operation of the facility. Items must not be stored in inappropriate places such as corridors or rooms which are not equipped for special hazard protection.

(l) No storage is permitted in rooms with gas-fired equipment. Bulk storage of volatile or flammable liquids or materials is not allowed anywhere within the building.

(m) Medical equipment, carts, wheelchairs, tables, furniture, dispensing machines, and similar physical objects, must not be stored in corridors or other ways of egress.

(6) Resident call system. The nurse's station must be equipped to receive resident calls through a communication system from:
(A) resident rooms; and
(B) toilet and bathing facilities.
**Shower/Tub Room**

**RULE §19.306 Toilet Facilities**

Each resident room must be equipped with or located near toilet and bathing facilities.

(1) Bedrooms not provided with their own (or shared) direct-access toilets and baths must have general-use baths and toilets conveniently located for each sex.

(2) Bathtubs or showers must be provided at minimum rate of one for each 20 beds which are not otherwise served by bathing facilities directly accessible from resident bedrooms.

(6) There must be a sufficient number of toilet rooms and bathing areas designed to accommodate residents in wheelchairs, including sufficient space in or around fixtures. Proper heights, locations, and installations must be made for grab bars, and any mirrors and accessories provided.

(7) Grab bars and lavatories must be substantially anchored to withstand sustained and repeated downward and outward pressure. Grab bars must be provided at all resident water closets and bathing fixtures. New grab bar installations must meet the requirements of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, Elimination of Architectural Barriers Section.

(8) Floors, walls, and ceilings must have a nonabsorbent, cleanable surface. Floors and tub or shower standing surfaces must be slip resistant.

(9) Doors to bathing and toilet facilities must be wide enough for safe and easy passage of residents in wheelchairs. Folding or sliding doors must not be used unless it can be established that no safety hazard exists.

(10) Keys to resident baths or toilets with privacy locks must be kept readily available to staff.

(11) Provision must be made for sanitary hand washing and drying by staff, visitors, or residents at each lavatory.

(13) Bathing areas must be provided with safe heating.

(14) Bathtubs, showers, and lavatories must be kept clean and in proper working order. They must not be used for laundering or for storage of soiled materials or for the cleaning of mops or brooms.

(15) Nurse-call devices must be provided at resident-use baths and toilets and be within easy reach of residents.

(16) Electrical outlets in wet areas must be provided with ground fault interrupters, excluding toilet rooms where there are no bathing units.

**New Construction: Nursing Unit**

(7) All new construction completed after August 10, 1983, must allow direct line-of-sight observation of all resident bedroom corridors from the nurses station or auxiliary station.

**RULE §19.334 Architectural Space Planning and Utilization**
(b) Nursing service areas. The service areas described in this subsection must be located in or readily available to each nursing unit. The size and disposition of each service area will depend upon the number and types of beds to be served. Each service area may be arranged and located to serve more than one nursing unit, but at least one service area must be provided on each nursing floor. The maximum allowable distance from a resident room door to a nurse station is 150 feet. The following requirements are applicable to services areas:

(1) Nurse stations must be provided with space for nurses' charting, doctors' charting, and storage for administrative supplies. Nurses stations must be located to provide a direct view of resident corridors. A direct view of resident corridors is acceptable if a person can see down the corridors from a point within 24 inches of the outside of the nurse station counter or wall.

(2) Lounge and toilet room(s) must be provided for nursing staff.

(3) Lockers and/or security compartments must be provided for the safekeeping of personal effects of staff. These must be located convenient to the duty station of personnel or in a central location.

(4) Clean utility room(s) must contain a work counter, sink with high-neck faucet with lever controls, and storage facilities and must be part of a system for storage and distribution of clean and sterile supply materials.

(5) Soiled utility room(s) must contain a water closet or equivalent flushing rim fixture, a sink large enough to submerge a bedpan with spray hose and high-neck faucet with lever controls, work counter, waste receptacle, and linen receptacle. These utility rooms must be part of a system for collection and cleaning or disposal of soiled utensils or materials. A separate handwash sink must be provided if the bedpan disinfecting sink cannot normally be used for handwashing.

(6) Provision must be made for convenient and prompt 24-hour distribution of medication to residents. The medication preparation room must be under the nursing staff's visual control and contain a work counter, refrigerator, sink with hot and cold water, and locked storage for biologicals and drugs and must have a minimum area of 50 square feet. The minimum dimension allowed is five feet six inches. An appropriate air supply must be provided to maintain adequate temperature and ventilation for safe storage of medications. For purposes of storage of unrefrigerated medications, the room temperature must be maintained between 59 degrees and 86 degrees F.

(7) Provision must be made for separate closets or room for clean linens. Corridors must not be used for folding or cart storage. Storage rooms must be located and distributed in the building for efficient access to bedrooms.

(8) Soiled linen rooms must be provided as required in subsection (I) of this section.

(9) A nourishment station(s) is usually required in all but the smaller facilities and must contain a sink equipped for handwashing, equipment for serving nourishment between scheduled meals, refrigerator, and storage cabinets. Ice for residents' service and treatment must be provided only by icemaker units. This station may be furnished in a clean utility room.

(10) An equipment storage room must be provided for equipment such as intravenous stands, inhalators, air mattresses, and walkers.
(11) Parking spaces for stretchers and wheelchairs must be located out of the path of normal traffic.

c) Residents’ bathing and toilet facilities. The following requirements are applicable to bathing and toilet facilities:

(1) Bathtubs or showers must be provided at the rate of one for each 20 beds which are not otherwise served by bathing facilities within residents’ rooms. At least one bathing unit must be provided in each nursing unit. Each tub or shower must 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. Each general-use bathing room (those not directly serving adjoining bedrooms) must be provided with at least one water closet (in a stall, room, or area for privacy) and one lavatory. These bathing room(s) must be located conveniently to the bedroom area it serves and must not be more than 100 feet from the farthest bedroom. See requirements in subsection (a)(8) of this section for resident toilets at bedrooms. Each facility must provide at least one whirlpool tub unit as one of the required bathing units.

(2) At least 50% of bathrooms and toilet rooms, fixtures, and accessories must be designed and provided to meet criteria under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 for individuals with disabilities unless otherwise approved by DHS.

(3) All rooms containing bathtubs, sitz baths, showers, and water closets, subject to occupancy by residents, must be equipped with swinging doors and hardware which will permit access from the outside in any emergency.

(4) Bathing areas must be provided with safe and effective auxiliary or supplementary heating. Bathing areas must be free of drafts and must have adequate exhaust ducted to the outside to minimize excess moisture retention and resulting mold and mildew problems.

(5) Tubs and showers must be provided with slip-proof bottoms. odors. Ducted manifold systems are recommended for some multiple-type installations.

(10) Floors, walls, and ceilings must have nonabsorbent surfaces, be smooth, and easily cleanable.

(d) Disposal facilities. Space and facilities must be provided for the sanitary storage of waste by incineration, mechanical destruction, compaction, containerization, removal, or by a combination of these techniques.

(h) Administrative and public areas.

(1) The following elements must be provided in the public area:

(A) The entrance must be at grade level, sheltered from the weather, and able to accommodate wheelchairs. A drive-under canopy must be provided for the protection of residents or visitors entering or leaving a vehicle. The latter may be a secondary entrance.

(B) The lobby must include:

(i) storage space for wheelchairs (if more than one is kept available);
(ii) a reception and/or information area (may be obviously adjacent to lobby);
(iii) waiting space(s);
(iv) public toilet facilities for individuals with disabilities (may be adjacent to lobby);
(v) at least one public access telephone(s), installed to meet standards under the Americans with
Disabilities Act; and
(vi) drinking fountain(s). These may be provided in a common public area and at least one must be
installed to meet standards under the Americans with Disabilities Act; and

(C) A lobby may also be use-designed to satisfy a portion of the minimum area required for resident
living room space.

(2) The following must be provided in the administrative area:
(A) General or individual offices(s) for business transactions, medical and financial records,
administrative and professional staff, and for private interviews relating to social service, credit,
and admissions.
(B) A multipurpose room for conferences, meetings, and health education purposes including
facilities for showing visual aids.
(C) Storage and work area for office equipment and supplies must be provided and accessible to the
staff using such items.

(3) Toilet facilities for the disabled must be available in the building.

(i) Physical therapy facilities.

(1) Physical therapy facilities must be provided if required by the treatment program. The facilities
stated in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph and paragraph (2)(C)-(E) of this subsection may be
planned and arranged for shared use by occupational therapy residents and staff if the treatment
program reflects this sharing concept. Physical therapy facilities must include the following:
(A) Provision 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 that may be used in the therapy.
(B) Residents' dressing areas, showers, lockers, and toilet rooms if the therapy is such that these
would be needed at the area.

(2) Physical therapy facilities may also include the following:
(A) treatment area(s) with space and equipment for thermotherapy, diathermy, ultrasonics, and
hydrotherapy;
(B) an exercise area;
(C) storage for clean linen, supplies, and equipment used in therapy;
(D) service sink located near therapy area; and
(E) wheelchair and stretcher storage.

(j) Occupational therapy. Occupational therapy facilities must be provided if required by the
treatment program.

(1) An activities area with a sink or lavatory and facilities for collection of waste products prior to
disposal must be provided.

(2) Storage for supplies and equipment used in the therapy must be provided.

(m) General storage. The following requirements are applicable to general storage facilities:

(1) A general storage room(s) must be provided as needed to accommodate the facility’s needs. It is
recommended that a general storage area provide at least two square feet per resident bed.
area would be for items such as extra beds, mattresses, appliances, and other furnishing and supplies.

(2) Storage space with provisions for locking and security control should be provided for residents' personaleffects which are not kept in their rooms.

(7) Grab bars must be provided at all residents' toilets, showers, tubs, and sitz baths. The bars must be 1-1/4 to 1-1/2 inches in diameter and must have 1-1/2 inch clearance to walls. Bars must have sufficient strength and anchorage to sustain a concentrated load of 250 pounds. Grab bar standards must comply with standards adopted under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Summary: Maximum Distance from Unit/Station; Call System; Utility Room; Hand-washing Facilities; Mirrors; Auxiliary Stations; Storage; Shower/Tub Ratio; Fixtures; Grab Bars; New Construction