

Subchapter A. Physical Environment

§9901. General Provisions

A. The nursing home shall be designed, constructed, equipped, and maintained to protect the health and safety of residents, personnel, and the public.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2009.1-2116.4.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 24:62 (January 1998).

§9903. Nurses' Station

A. Each floor of a multistory nursing home shall have a nurses' station.

B. Each nurse's station shall be provided with working space and accommodations for recording and charting purposes by nursing home staff with storage space for in-house resident records.

C. The nurses' station shall be equipped to audibly receive resident calls electronically through a call system from resident rooms and toilet and bathing facilities. There shall be a medicine preparation room or area.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2009.1-2116.4.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 24:62 (January 1998).

§9905. Resident Rooms

A. Resident bedrooms shall be designed and equipped for adequate nursing care, comfort, and privacy of residents. Each resident bedroom shall have a floor, walls, and ceilings in good repair and so finished as to enable satisfactory cleaning.

B. Each resident's bedroom shall have a floor at or above grade level; accommodate no more than four residents; have a minimum width of not less than 10 feet; have a ceiling height of at least 7 feet; have electrical outlets in accordance with the *National Electrical Code* of which the construction plans were initially approved by DHH and the State Fire Marshal's Office; have direct access to an exit corridor; and be so situated that passage through another resident's bedroom is unnecessary.

C. A ceiling height of at least 8 feet shall be provided in nursing homes or additions to nursing homes in which construction plans were initially approved by DHH and the State Fire Marshal's Office after January 20, 1998.

D. Private resident bedrooms shall measure at least 100 square feet of bedroom area.

E. Multiple resident bedrooms shall measure at least 80 square feet of bedroom area for each resident.

F. There shall be at least three feet between the sides and foot of the bed and any wall, other fixed obstruction, or other bed, unless the furniture arrangement is the resident's preference and does not interfere with service delivery. In

nursing homes or additions to nursing homes in which construction plans were initially approved by DHH and the State Fire Marshal's Office after January 20, 1998, there shall be at least 4 feet between the sides and foot of the bed and any wall, other fixed obstruction, or other bed, unless the furniture arrangement is the resident's preference and does not interfere with service delivery.

G. Each resident's bedroom shall have at least one window opening to the outside atmosphere. Windows with sills less than 30 inches from the floor shall be provided with guard rails.

H. Each resident's bedroom window shall be provided with shades, curtains, drapes, or blinds.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2009.1-2116.4.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 24:62 (January 1998).

§9907. Resident Room Furnishings

A. Each resident shall be provided with an individual bed of proper size and height for the convenience of the resident and equipped with:

1. a clean spring in good repair;
2. a clean, comfortable, well-constructed mattress at least 5 inches thick with waterproof ticking and correct size to fit the bed;
3. a clean, comfortable pillow shall be provided for each bed with extra pillows available to meet the needs of the residents;
4. adequate bed rails, when necessary, to meet the needs of the resident; and
5. sheets and covers appropriate to the weather and climate.

B. Screens or noncombustible ceiling-suspended privacy curtains which extend around the bed shall be provided for each bed in multiresident bedrooms to assure resident privacy. Total visual privacy without obstructing the passage of other residents either to the corridor, closet, lavatory, or adjacent toilet room nor fully encapsulating the bedroom window must be provided.

C. The nurses' call system cords, buttons, or other communication mechanisms shall be placed where they are within reach of each resident.

D. Each resident shall be provided a bedside table with at least two drawers, and an enclosed hanging space for clothing that is accessible to the resident. As appropriate to resident needs, each resident shall have a comfortable chair with armrests, waste receptacle, and access to mirror unless medically contraindicated.

E. Each resident who has tray service to his/her room shall be provided with an adjustable overbed table positioned so that the resident can eat comfortably.

F. Each resident shall be provided with a bedside light or over-the-bed light capable of being operated from the bed for nursing homes in which construction plans were initially approved by DHH and the State Fire Marshal's Office after May 1, 1997.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2009.1-2116.4.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 24:63 (January 1998).

§9909. Locked Units

A. Nursing homes providing locked units must develop admission criteria. There must be documentation in the resident's record to indicate the unit is the least restrictive environment possible, and placement in the unit is needed to facilitate meeting the resident's needs.

B. Guidelines for admission shall be provided to either the resident, his/her family, and his/her legal representative.

C. Locked units are designed and staffed to provide the care and services necessary for the resident's needs to be met.

D. There must be sufficient staff to respond to emergency situations in the locked unit at all times.

E. The resident on the locked unit has the right to exercise those rights which have not been limited as a result of admission to the unit.

F. Care plans shall address the reasons for the resident being in the unit and how the facility is meeting the resident's needs.

G. Admission to a locked unit must be in compliance with R.S. 40:1299.53 and 40:2010.8.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2009.1-2116.4.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 24:63 (January 1998).

§9911. Toilet, Hand Washing and Bathing Facilities

A. Each floor occupied by residents shall be provided with a toilet and lavatory, and either a bathtub or shower.

B. Each bedroom shall be equipped with or conveniently located near adequate toilet and bathing facilities appropriate in number, size, and design to meet the needs of residents.

C. In nursing homes built prior to August 26, 1958, the following ratio shall be provided (whenever calculations include any fraction of a fixture, the next higher whole number of fixtures shall be installed).

Lavatories	1:10 beds
Toilets	1:10 beds
Showers or tubs	1:15 beds

D. In nursing homes built after August 26, 1958, the following ratio shall be provided (whenever calculations

include any fraction of a fixture, the next higher whole number of fixtures shall be installed).

Lavatories	One per bedroom or immediately adjacent thereto
Toilets	1:8 beds
Showers or tubs	1:10 beds

E. Bathrooms shall be easily accessible, conveniently located, well lighted, and ventilated to the outside atmosphere. Doors to bathrooms and toilet rooms used by residents shall be at least 2 feet 8 inches wide. The fixtures shall be of substantial construction, in good repair, and of such design to enable satisfactory cleaning.

F. Tub and shower bath bottoms shall be of nonslip material. Grab bars shall be provided to prevent falling and to assist in getting in and out of the tub or shower.

G. Separate toilet and lavatory facilities for use by employees shall be provided. Separate bathtubs, whirlpools, or showers shall be provided for employees who live on the premises.

H. Lights must be controlled by wall switches, which must be so placed that they cannot be reached from the bathtub, whirlpool, or shower.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2009.1-2116.4.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 24:63 (January 1998).

§9913. Dining and Resident Activities

A. The nursing home shall provide one or more areas designated for resident dining and activities.

B. The dining room(s) or area(s) shall seat not less than 50 percent of the licensed capacity of the nursing home at one seating where plans were initially approved by the Fire Marshall on or after January 20, 1998. No smoking shall be allowed in these areas during meal times.

C. There shall be sufficient space and equipment to comfortably accommodate the residents who participate in group and individual activities. These areas shall be well lighted and ventilated and be adequately furnished to accommodate all activities.

D. Areas used for corridor traffic or for storage of equipment shall not be considered as areas for dining or activities.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2009.1-2116.4.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 24:64 (January 1998).

§9915. Linen and Laundry

A. The nursing home shall have available, at all times, a quantity of bed and bath linen essential for proper care and comfort of residents.

B. All linen shall be in good condition.

C. All used linen shall be bagged or enclosed in appropriate containers for transportation to the laundry.

D. Soiled linen storage areas shall be ventilated to the outside atmosphere.

E. Linen from residents with a communicable disease shall be bagged, in readily identifiable containers distinguishable from other laundry, at the location where it was used.

F. Linen soiled with blood or body fluids shall be placed and transported in bags that prevent leakage.

G. If hot water is used, linen shall be washed with detergent in water at least 160°F for 25 minutes. If low-temperature (less than or equal to 158°F) laundry cycles are used, chemicals suitable for low-temperature washing, at proper use concentration, shall be used.

H. Provisions shall be made for laundering personal clothing of residents.

I. Clean linen shall be transported and stored in a manner to prevent its contamination.

J. Nursing homes providing in-house laundry services shall have a laundry system designed to eliminate crossing of soiled and clean linen.

K. There shall be hand washing facilities for employees in the laundry.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2009.1-2116.4.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 24:64 (January 1998).

§9917. Equipment and Supplies

A. The nursing home shall maintain all essential mechanical, electrical, and resident care equipment in safe operating condition.

B. Therapeutic, diagnostic, and other resident care equipment shall be maintained and serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

C. Wheelchairs shall be available for emergency use by residents who are not fully ambulatory.

D. Equipment for taking vital signs shall be maintained.

E. At least one oxygen tank or resource of oxygen shall be readily accessible for emergency use.

F. An adequate number of battery-generated lamps or flash lights shall be available for staff use in case of electrical power failure.

G. There shall be at least one telephone adapted for use by residents with hearing impairments at a height accessible to bound residents who use wheelchairs and be available for resident use where calls can be made without being overheard.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2009.1-2116.4.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 24:64 (January 1998).

§9919. Other Environmental Conditions

A. The nursing home shall provide a safe, clean, orderly, homelike environment.

B. The minimum resident capacity of a nursing home shall be 150 square feet gross area per resident. Bedroom square footage per bed is a part of this gross area.

C. There shall be a well lighted and ventilated living/community room with sufficient furniture.

D. There shall be a clean utility room designed for proper storage of nursing equipment and supplies.

E. There shall be a separate soiled utility room designed for proper cleansing, disinfecting, and sterilizing of equipment and supplies. As a minimum, it shall contain equipment to satisfactorily clean resident care equipment, a clinic service sink, and provisions for the storage of cleaning supplies (e.g., mops and pails) and chemical supplies.

F. A hard surfaced off-the-road parking area to provide parking for one car per five licensed beds shall be provided. This requirement is minimum and may be exceeded by local ordinances. Where this requirement would impose an unreasonable hardship, a written request for a lesser amount may be submitted to the department for waiver consideration.

G. The nursing home shall make arrangements for an adequate supply of safe potable water even when there is a loss of normal water supply. Service from a public water supply must be used, if available. Private water supplies, if used, must meet the requirements of the *State Sanitary Code*.

H. An adequate supply of hot water shall be provided which shall be adequate for general cleaning, washing, and sterilizing of cooking and food service dishes and other utensils, and for bathing and laundry use. Hot water supply to the hand washing and bathing faucets in the resident areas shall have automatic control to assure a temperature of not less than 100°F, nor more than 120°F, at the faucet outlet.

I. The nursing home shall be connected to the public sewerage system, if such a system is available. Where a public sewerage is not available, the sewerage disposal system shall conform to the requirements of the *State Sanitary Code*.

J. The nursing home shall maintain a comfortable sound level conducive to meeting the need of the residents.

K. All plumbing shall be properly maintained and conform to the requirements of the *State Sanitary Code*.

L. There shall be at least one toilet room for employees and the public.

M. There shall be adequate outside ventilation by means of window, or mechanical ventilation or a combination of the two.

N. All openings to the outside atmosphere shall be effectively screened. Exterior doors equipped with closers in air conditioned buildings need not have screens.

O. Each room used by residents shall be capable of being heated to not less than 71°F in the coldest weather and capable of being cooled to not more than 81°F in the warmest weather.

P. Lighting levels in all areas shall be adequate to support task performance by staff personnel and independent functioning of residents. A minimum of 6' to 10' candles over the entire stairway, corridors, and resident rooms measured at an elevation of 30 inches above the floor and a minimum of 20' to 30' candles over areas used for reading or close work shall be available.

Q. Corridors used by residents shall be equipped on each side with firmly secured handrails, affixed to the wall.

R. There shall be an effective pest control program so that the nursing home is free of pest and rodent infestation.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2009.1-2116.4.

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