Resident Bedroom

(1) Bedrooms must:
(A) accommodate no more than four residents. The total number of beds in ward rooms with three or more beds must not exceed 50% of the total facility capacity in existing facilities unless approved by the Texas Department of Human Services (DHS).
(B) measure at least 80 square feet per resident in multiple resident bedrooms and at least 100 square feet in single resident rooms.
(C) have direct access to an exit corridor.
(D) be designed or equipped to assure full visual privacy for each resident. Appropriate measures must be taken through the use of cubicle curtains, screens, or procedures to protect the privacy and dignity of the residents. Curtains and screens must be rendered and maintained flame-retardant.
(E) in facilities initially certified after March 31, 1992, except in private rooms, have ceiling-suspended curtains for each bed, which extend around the bed to provide total visual privacy, in combination with adjacent walls and curtain (see paragraph (4) of this section).
(F) have at least one operable window to the outside which can readily be opened from the inside without the use of tools. The height of the window sill (opening) must not exceed 36 inches above the floor. The minimum area of windows in each bedroom must equal at least 8.0% of the room area. Operable window sections may be restricted to not more than six nor less than four inches for security or safety reasons if approved in writing by DHS. Each window must be provided with a flame-retardant shade, curtain, or blind.
(G) have a floor at or above grade level.

(2) The facility must provide each resident with:
(A) a separate bed of proper size and height for the convenience of the resident. The bed will be a minimum of 36 inches wide with a headboard of sturdy construction. Each bed must be provided with suitable bedspreads and blankets to assure the comfort and warmth of each resident, and must not be passed from resident to resident without first being laundered. The bed of each resident with physician’s orders for bedrails must have bedrails affixed to both sides of the bed;
(B) a clean, comfortable mattress with a moisture-proof cover, and a comfortable pillow;
(C) bedding appropriate to the weather and climate; and
(D) functional furniture appropriate to the resident’s needs including a comfortable chair, bedside cabinet, and individual closet space in the resident bedroom with at least 16 inches of hanging space, shelves for personal belongings accessible to the resident, and closeable door(s). Each bedroom must be provided with at least one noncombustible wastebasket.

(3) DHS may permit variations in requirements specified in paragraph (1)(A) and (B) of this section relating to rooms in individual cases when the facility demonstrates in writing that the variations:
(A) are required by the special needs of the residents; and
(B) will not adversely affect residents’ health and safety.

(4) The width and length of bedrooms and the arrangement of furniture must assure appropriate resident circulation, especially in relation to emergency evacuation and to usual wheelchair movement. Bedrooms should not be less than 10 feet in the smallest dimension. There must be at least 36 inches between beds and should be at least 18 inches between any bed and the adjacent
parallel wall that restricts access by the resident (that is, bed sides should not have to be placed against a wall to meet other spacing requirements). Beds must not extend into the bedroom door opening, nor must any other piece of furnishing or equipment be located where it might preclude or inhibit the removal of any bed or closing and latching of the bedroom door in an emergency.

(5) Each bed must have access to a nurse-call device that is part of an electrical nurse-call system.

(6) Each bed must be provided with an appropriate, safe, durable, nonglare, permanently bed-mounted or wall-mounted reading-light fixture. The fixture must be wired in accordance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 70. These fixtures should be mounted at least five feet, six inches above the floor. The switch must be within reach of a resident in the bed.

(7) At least one duplex receptacle must be provided for each bed. Other duplex receptacles must be provided as needed and/or as required by NFPA 70.

(8) Each bedroom must be assured of having general lighting, either by means of appropriate combination reading light or by means of separate fixture.

(9) For emergency separation from fire and smoke, bedroom doors must be maintained to close completely without dragging or binding, to latch securely, and to fit reasonably tight in the frame. The gap between the floor and the bottom of the closed door must not exceed 3/4 inch.

(10) Vacant bedrooms may not be used for hazardous activities or hazardous storage, unless specifically approved by DHS in writing.

(11) Bedrooms must be identified with a raised or recessed unique number placed on or near the door. Refer to §19.319(c) of this title (relating to Provisions for Persons with Disabilities) and §19.301(c)(5) of this title (relating to Applicable Codes and Standards).

(12) Residents must be permitted and encouraged to have personal possessions in their rooms that do not interfere with their care, treatment, or well-being, or that of other residents. Pediatric resident’s rooms should be decorated and furnished in accordance with the age and developmental level of the children and as an expression of their individual preferences.

(13) Locks on bedroom doors are permitted when they meet definite patient needs, including the following situations:
(A) married couples whose rights of privacy could be infringed upon unless bedroom door locks are permitted;
(B) residents for whom the attending physician wants bedroom door locks to enhance their sense of security; and
(C) residents for whom restraint through confinement to their own rooms is necessary for their own and/or other persons’ safety.

(14) In situations such as those listed in paragraph (13) of this section, the following guidelines must be met:
(A) bedroom door locks for other than restraining purposes must be of the type which the occupant can unlock at will from inside the room;
(B) all bedroom door locks must be of the type which can be unlocked from the corridor side;
(C) attendants must carry keys which will permit ready accessibility to the locked bedrooms when entrance becomes necessary;
(D) bedroom doors which are locked for resident restraining purposes must be dutch-doors, with only the lower section locked. The upper part of the doorway must be open to permit visual
supervision of the residents from the corridor. The Dutch door should be easily unlocked by nurses and attendants. Resident restraints of any nature cannot be applied without orders from the attending physician. See §19.601 of this title (relating to Resident Behavior and Facility Practice). (E) Locking of bedroom doors by residents for privacy or security or by nursing facility staff for restraint (Dutch door) will not be permitted except when specifically included in the attending physician’s written orders or authorized by the nursing facility administrator.

**RULE §19.325 Linen**

(a) The nursing facility must have available at all times a quantity of linen essential for the proper care and comfort of residents. Linens must be handled, stored, and processed so as to control the spread of infection.

(e) Clean towels and washcloths must be provided to each resident as needed or desired. Towels and washcloths must be stored in a sanitary manner between uses by the resident and must not be used by more than one resident between launderings.

(h) Resident’s personal clothing that is not soiled with body wastes may be stored in a closed container in the resident’s closet. The clothing must be collected and cleaned at least weekly.

(1) Bedroom space arrangement and doors and corridors must be designed for evacuation of bedfast residents by means of rolling the bed to a safe place in the building or to the outside.

(4) Resident rooms. Resident rooms must be designed and equipped for adequate nursing care, comfort, and privacy of residents.

(A) Bedrooms must:
(i) accommodate no more than four residents;
(ii) measure at least 80 square feet per resident in multiple resident bedrooms and at least 100 square feet in single resident rooms;
(iii) have direct access to an exit corridor;
(iv) be designed or equipped to assure full visual privacy for each resident;
(v) in facilities initially certified after March 31, 1992, except in private rooms, have ceiling-suspended curtains for each bed, which extend around the bed to provide total visual privacy, in combination with adjacent walls and curtain;
(vi) have at least one window to the outside; and
(vii) have a floor at or above grade level.

(B) The facility must provide each resident with:
(i) a separate bed of proper size and height for the convenience of the resident;
(ii) a clean, comfortable mattress;
(iii) bedding appropriate to the weather and climate; and
(iv) functional furniture appropriate to the resident’s needs and individual closet space in the resident’s bedroom with clothes racks and shelves accessible to the resident.

(C) DHS may permit variations in requirements specified in paragraph (1)(A) and (B) of this section relating to rooms in individual cases when the facility demonstrates in writing that the variations:
(i) are required by the special needs of the residents; and
(ii) will not adversely affect residents’ health and safety.

**Toilet Area**
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.

(3) In toilet facilities designed for multi-resident use, water closets must be separated in such a manner that they can be used independently and afford privacy. Toilet paper in a suitable dispenser must be provided within reach of each toilet.

(4) Water closets and lavatories must be provided at a minimum rate of one for each eight beds which are not otherwise served by fixtures directly accessible from resident bedrooms. A lavatory must be provided in or adjacent to each area having a water closet.

(5) Lavatories must be equipped with a mixer faucet and hot and cold water. Resident-use hot water must be provided within the temperature guidelines specified in §19.322(g) of this title (relating to Plumbing).

(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.

(12) Bathrooms and toilets rooms must have a negative air pressure in relation to adjacent areas with air exhausted through ducts to the exterior.

(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.
(5) Toilet facilities. Each resident room must be equipped with or located near toilet and bathing facilities.

New Construction: Room and Bath

RULE §19.305 Resident Rooms

Resident rooms must be designed and equipped for adequate nursing care, comfort, and privacy of residents.

RULE §19.334 Architectural Space Planning and Utilization

(a) Resident bedrooms. Each resident bedroom must meet the following requirements:
(1) The maximum room capacity must be four residents.
(2) No more than 25% of the total licensed beds may be in bedrooms with more than two beds each.
(3) Minimum bedroom area, excluding toilet rooms, closets, lockers, wardrobes, alcoves, or vestibules, must be 100 square feet in single occupancy rooms and 80 square feet per bed in multi-bed rooms.
(4) The minimum allowable room dimension is ten feet. The room must be designed to provide at least 36 inches between beds and 24 inches between any bed and the adjacent (parallel) wall.
(5) Each room must have at least one operable outside window arranged and located so that it can be easily opened from the inside without the use of tools or keys. The maximum allowable sill height (to opening) must not exceed 36 inches above the floor. All operative windows must have insect screens. The minimum area of window(s) in each bedroom must equal at least 16 square feet or 8.0% of the room area, whichever is larger.
(6) Each room must have general lighting, bed reading lights, and night lighting. The night light must be switched just inside the entrance to each resident room with a silent type switch unless otherwise approved by the Texas Department of Human Services (DHS). The light providing general illumination must be switchable at the door of the resident room for use of staff and residents. A durable nonglare (opaque front panel) reading light securely anchored to the wall, integrally wired, must be provided for each resident bed. The switch must be within reach of a resident in the bed.
(7) Two duplex or a fourplex grounding type receptacles must be provided beside the head of each bed. Other walls must have duplex receptacles as needed for TV, radio, razors, hairdryers, clocks, and/or as required by the National Electrical Code, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA 70), which is a registered trademark of the National Fire Protection Association, Inc., Quincy, Massachusetts 02269.
(8) Each resident must have access to a toilet room without entering the general corridor area. One toilet room must serve no more than two resident rooms. The toilet room must contain a water closet and a lavatory. The lavatory may be omitted from a toilet room which serves two bedrooms if each resident room contains a lavatory. See subsection (c)(1) of this section for baths and other toilet facility requirements.
(9) Each resident must have a bed with a comfortable mattress, a bedside stand with at least two enclosed storage spaces, a dresser, and closet or wardrobe space providing privacy for clothing and personal belongings. Clothes storage space must provide at least 22 inches of lineal hanging space per bed and have closable doors. Chairs and space must be provided for use by residents and/or visitors.
(10) Each room must open onto an exit corridor and must be arranged for convenient resident
access to dining, living, and bathing areas.
(11) Visual privacy (such as cubicle curtains) must be available for each resident in multi-bed rooms. Design for privacy must not restrict resident access to entry, lavatory, or toilet, nor may it restrict bed evacuation or obstruct sprinkler flow coverage.
(12) At least one noncombustible wastebasket must be provided in each bedroom.
(13) See the requirements in §19.341(d)(4) of this title (relating to Electrical Requirements) for nurse call systems.

(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.
(6) Lavatories and handwashing facilities must be securely anchored to withstand an applied downward load of not less than 250 pounds on the front of the fixtures.
(7) Provision must be made for sanitary hand drying and toothbrush storage at lavatories. There must be paper towel dispensers or separate towel racks and separate toothbrush holders.
(8) Mirrors must be arranged for convenient use by residents in wheelchairs as well as by residents in a standing position, and the minimum size must be 15 inches in width by 30 inches in height, or tilt type.
(9) Rooms with toilets must be provided with effective forced air exhaust ducted to the exterior to help remove 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.

(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: Minimum Beds per Room; Minimum Bed Size; Minimum Furnishings Specified; Minimum Closet Space; Noncombustible Wastebasket; Space Between Beds; Locks Conditionally Permitted; Master Keys; Dutch Doors on Restraining Rooms; New Construction Requirements; Grab Bars; Toilet Room and Lavatory Access and Capacity; Storage; Linens; Personal Belongings