Resident Bedroom

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

(b) Bedrooms must:
(1) accommodate no more than two residents, except as provided in (e) below;
(2) measure at least 80 square feet per resident in multiple resident bedrooms, and at least 100 square feet in single resident rooms;
(3) have direct access to an exit corridor;
(4) be designed or equipped to assure full visual privacy for each resident;
(5) in facilities initially certified after March 31, 1992, except in private rooms, have ceiling suspended curtains for each bed that extend around the bed to provide total visual privacy in combination with adjacent walls and curtains;
(6) have at least one window to the outside; and
(7) have a floor at or above grade level.

(c) The facility must provide each resident with:
(1) a separate bed of proper size and height for the convenience of the resident;
(2) a clean, comfortable mattress;
(3) bedding appropriate to the weather and climate; and
(4) 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.

(d) The licensing agency may permit variations in requirements specified in subsections 8.4(b)(1) and (2) of this section relating to rooms in individual cases when the facility demonstrates in writing that the variations:
(1) are in accordance with the special needs of the residents; and
(2) will not adversely affect residents’ health and safety.

(e) Resident bedrooms in existence on the effective date of this rule that are designed to accommodate three or four persons may remain in operation, subject to the following conditions:
(1) At least annually, residents who reside in three- or four-bed rooms will be offered the first vacant bed in a semi-private or private room (depending upon payment source) when such bed becomes available and prior to admission of a new resident into such bed. The resident’s patient record shall record the date on which the resident was offered the opportunity to relocate to a semi-private or private room, the resident’s response and, if the resident requests a transfer to a semi-private or private room, the date on which the transfer occurred.
(2) Admission of a new resident to a three- or four-bed room may occur only with the resident’s or the resident’s legal representative’s consent.

(5) Facilities shall provide private space for residents of three or four bedrooms to visit with family, relatives, friends, clergy, etc.

Toilet Area
Each resident room must be equipped with or located near toilet facilities.
New Construction: Room and Bath

(3) Any downsizing or reduction in licensed capacity initiated by the facility must first reduce the number of beds contained in three- and four-bed rooms such that these rooms are converted to semi-private or private occupancy.

(4) Proposals for new construction, expansion, renovation or substantial rehabilitation of a facility requiring Certificate of Need approval pursuant to 18 V.S.A. §9434 will not be approved by the licensing agency unless the construction proposal includes a plan for elimination or conversion of all three- and four-bed rooms to rooms which accommodate no more than two persons.

(i) The terms “renovation or substantial rehabilitation” shall not be deemed to include routine maintenance or repairs due to normal wear and tear.

(ii) “Routine maintenance or repairs” includes, but is not limited to, furnace replacement, roof replacement, rewiring, and repainting and other improvements that do not alter the appearance or layout of the facility.

(iii) Construction that alters the appearance or layout of the facility, including relocation of walls, partitions, doors, creation or subdivision of rooms, or conversion of a portion of the facility for a different use, shall be considered “renovation or substantial rehabilitation” and not “routine maintenance or repair”.

Summary: Beds per Room; Minimum Room Size (Date-Specific); Seasonally Appropriate Bedding; Variances Considered; Annual Effort to Transfer from Multi-Resident Rooms to Semi-Private or Private; New Construction Requirements; Private Space for Visits