

**10A NCAC 13B .5411 PHYSICAL FACILITY REQUIREMENTS/INPATIENT REHABILITATION FACILITIES OR UNIT**

- (a) The inpatient rehabilitation facility or unit shall be in a designated area and shall be used for the specific purpose of providing a comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation program.
- (b) The floor area of a single bedroom shall be sufficient for the patient or the staff to easily transfer the patient from the bed to a wheelchair and to maneuver a 180 degree turn with a wheelchair on at least one-side of the bed.
- (c) The floor area of a multi-bed bedroom shall be sufficient for the patient or the staff to easily transfer the patient from the bed to a wheelchair and to maneuver a 180 degree turn with a wheelchair between beds.
- (d) Each patient room shall meet the following requirements:
  - (1) maximum room capacity of no more than four patients;
  - (2) operable windows;
  - (3) a nurse call system designed to meet the special needs of rehabilitation patients;
  - (4) in single and two-bed rooms with private toilet room, the lavatory may be located in the toilet room;
  - (5) a wardrobe or closet for each patient which is wheelchair accessible and arranged to allow the patient to access the contents;
  - (6) a chest of drawers or built-in drawer storage with mirror above, which is wheelchair accessible; and
  - (7) a bedside table for toilet articles and personal belongings.
- (e) Space for emergency equipment such as resuscitation carts shall be provided and shall be under direct control of the nursing staff, in proximity to the nurse's station and out of traffic.
- (f) Patients' bathing facilities shall meet the following specifications:
  - (1) there shall be at least one shower stall or one bathtub for each 15 beds not individually served. Each tub or shower shall be in an individual room or privacy enclosure which provides space for the private use of the bathing fixture, for drying and dressing and for a wheelchair and an assisting attendant;
  - (2) showers in central bathing facilities shall be at least five feet square without curbs and designed to permit use by a wheelchair patient;
  - (3) at least one five-foot-by-seven-foot shower shall be provided which can accommodate a stretcher and an assisting attendant.
- (g) Patients' toilet rooms and lavatories shall meet the following specifications:
  - (1) the size of toilet room shall permit a wheelchair, a staff person and appropriate wheel-to-water closet transfers;
  - (2) a lavatory in the room shall permit wheelchair access;
  - (3) lavatories serving patients shall:
    - (A) allow wheelchairs to extend under the lavatory; and
    - (B) have water supply spout mounted so that its discharge point is a minimum of five inches above the rim of the fixture; and
  - (4) lavatories used by patients and by staff shall be equipped with blade-operated supply valves.
- (h) The space provided for physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy by all inpatient rehabilitation facilities or units may be shared but shall, at a minimum, include:
  - (1) office space for staff;
  - (2) office space for speech therapy evaluation and treatment;
  - (3) waiting space;
  - (4) training bathroom which includes toilet, lavatory and bathtub;
  - (5) gymnasium or exercise area;
  - (6) work area such as tables or counters suitable for wheelchair access;
  - (7) treatment areas with available privacy curtains or screens;
  - (8) an activities of daily living training kitchen with sink, cooking top (secured when not supervised by staff), refrigerator and counter surface for meal preparation;
  - (9) storage for clean linens, supplies and equipment;
  - (10) janitor's closet accessible to the therapy area with floor receptor or service sink and storage space for housekeeping supplies and equipment (one closet or space may serve more than one area of the inpatient rehabilitation facility or unit); and
  - (11) hand washing facilities.
- (i) For social work and psychological services the following shall be provided:
  - (1) office space for staff;
  - (2) office space for private interviewing and counseling for all family members; and

- (3) work space for testing, evaluation and counseling.
- (j) If prosthetics and orthotics services are provided, the following space shall be made available as necessary:
  - (1) work space for technician; and
  - (2) space for evaluation and fittings (with provisions for privacy).
- (k) If vocational therapy services are provided, the following space shall be made available as necessary:
  - (1) office space for staff;
  - (2) work space for vocational services activities such as prevocational and vocational evaluation;
  - (3) training space;
  - (4) storage for equipment; and
  - (5) counseling and placement space.
- (l) Recreational therapy space requirements shall include the following:
  - (1) activities space;
  - (2) storage for equipment and supplies;
  - (3) office space for staff; and
  - (4) access to male and female toilets.
- (m) The following space shall be provided for patient's dining, recreation and day areas:
  - (1) sufficient room for wheelchair movement and wheelchair dining seating;
  - (2) if food service is cafeteria type, adequate width for wheelchair maneuvers, queue space within the dining area (and not in a corridor) and a serving counter low enough to view food;
  - (3) total space for inpatients, a minimum of 25 square feet per bed;
  - (4) for outpatients participating in a day program or partial day program, 20 square feet when dining is a part of the program and 10 square feet when dining is not a part of the program;
  - (5) storage for recreational equipment and supplies, tables and chairs; and
  - (6) the patient dining, recreation and day area spaces shall be provided with windows that have glazing of an area not less than eight percent of the floor area of the space, and at least one-half of the required window area must be operable.
- (n) A laundry shall be available and accessible for patients.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 131E-79;  
Eff. March 1, 1996;  
RRC objection due to lack of statutory authority Eff. August 22, 2022.*