10A NCAC 13K .1109 is proposed for readoption with substantive changes as follows:

**10A NCAC 13K .1109  RESIDENT CARE AREAS**

(a) Resident rooms shall meet the following requirements: A facility shall meet the following requirements for resident bedrooms:

1. There shall be private or semiprivate rooms; private bedroom with not less than 100 square feet of floor area or semi-private bedroom with not less than 80 square feet of floor area per bed shall be provided;

2. Infants and small children shall not be assigned to share a room or bedroom with an adult resident unless requested by the resident and families;

3. Each resident room shall contain at least be furnished with a bed, a mattress protected by waterproof material, a mattress pad, a pillow, and a chair; one chair per resident;

4. Each resident room shall have a minimum of 48 cubic feet of closet space or wardrobe for clothing and personal belongings that provides security and privacy for each resident. Each resident room shall be equipped with a towel rack for each individual; each bedroom shall be provided with one closet or wardrobe per bed. Each closet or wardrobe shall have clothing storage space of not less than 48 cubic feet per bed with one-half of this space for hanging clothes;

5. Each resident bedroom shall:
   
   (A) be located at or above grade level;

   (B) have provisions to ensure visual privacy for treatment or visiting; be provided with a cubicle curtain enclosing each bed to ensure visual privacy; and

   (C) be equipped with a towel rack for each resident;

6. Artificial lighting shall be provided sufficient for treatment and non-treatment needs, 50 foot candles for treatment, treatment needs, and 35 foot candles for non-treatment areas; and

7. A room where access is through a bathroom, kitchen or another bedroom will not be approved for a resident's bedroom; no resident bedroom shall be accessed through a bathroom, kitchen, or another bedroom.

(b) Bathrooms shall meet the following requirements: A facility shall meet the following requirements for bathrooms:

1. Bathrooms shall be conveniently directly accessible to resident rooms. Each resident bedroom without going through the general corridors. One bathroom may serve up to four residents and staff. Minimum size of any bathroom shall be 18 square feet. The door bathroom doorway shall be at least 32 inches wide, be a minimum 32-inch clear opening;

2. The each bathroom shall be furnished with the following:
   
   (A) a toilet with grab bars;

   (B) a lavatory with four inch wrist blade controls; a sink trimmed with valves that can be operated without hands. If the sink is equipped with blade handles, the blade handles shall
not be less than four inches in length. If the sink faucet depends on the building electrical service for operation, the faucet must have an emergency power source or battery backup capability. If the faucet has battery operated sensors, the facility shall have a maintenance policy to keep extra rechargeable or non-rechargeable batteries on premises for the faucets;

(C) a mirror;

(D) soap, paper towel dispensers, and waste paper receptacle with a removable impervious liner; and

(E) water closet; and

(F) a tub or shower.

(c) Space shall be provided for: Each facility shall provide:

(1) charting, storage of supplies and personal effects of staff; an area for charting;

(2) the storage of resident care equipment; storage provisions for personal effects of staff;

(3) housekeeping equipment and cleaning supplies; storage areas for supplies and resident care equipment;

(4) storage of test reagents and disinfectants distinct from medication; storage area(s) for housekeeping equipment and cleaning supplies;

(5) locked medication storage and preparation; and a medication preparation area with a counter, a sink trimmed with valves that can be operated without hands, locked medication storage, and a double locked narcotic storage area under visual control of staff. If the sink is equipped with blade handles, the blade handles shall not be less than four inches in length. If the sink faucet depends on the building electrical service for operation, the faucet must have an emergency power source or battery backup capability. If the faucet has battery operated sensors, the facility shall have a maintenance policy to keep extra rechargeable or non-rechargeable batteries on premises for the faucets;

(6) drugs requiring refrigeration. They may be stored in a separate locked box in the refrigerator or in a lockable drug-only refrigerator, capable of maintaining a temperature range of 36 degrees F (2 degrees C) to 46 degrees F (8 degrees C). The storage and accountability of controlled substances shall be in accordance with the North Carolina Controlled Substances Act, Article 5 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes. a lockable refrigerator for drug storage only or a separate locked box in a facility refrigerator. The refrigerator must be capable of maintaining a temperature range of 36 degrees F (2 degrees C) to 46 degrees F (8 degrees C);

(7) a kitchen with:

(A) a refrigerator;

(B) a cooking appliance ventilated to the outside;

(C) a 42-inch minimum double-compartment sink and domestic dishwashing machine capable of sanitizing dishes with 160 degrees F water; and

(D) storage space for non-perishables;

(8) a separate dining area measuring not less than 20 square feet per resident bed;
(9) a recreational and social activities area with not less than 150 square feet of floor area exclusive of corridor traffic;

(10) a nurses' calling system shall be provided:

(A) in each resident bedroom for each resident bed. The call system activator shall be such that they can be activated with a single action and remain on until deactivated by staff at the point of origin. The call system activator shall be within reach of a resident lying on the bed. In rooms containing two or more call system activators, indicating lights shall be provided at each calling station;

(B) nurses' calling systems which provide two-way voice communication shall be equipped with an indicating light at each calling station which lights and remains lighted as long as the voice circuit is operating;

(C) a nurses’ call emergency activator shall be proved at each residents’ use toilet fixture, bath, and shower. The call system activator shall be accessible to a resident lying on the floor; and

(D) calls shall register with the floor staff and shall activate a visible signal in the corridor at the resident's door. In multi-corridor units, additional visible signals shall be installed at corridor intersections;

(11) heating and air conditioning equipment that can maintain a temperature range between 68 degrees and 80 degrees Fahrenheit, even upon loss of utility power.

(d) Kitchen and dining areas shall have:

(1) a refrigerator;

(2) a cooking unit ventilated to the outside;

(3) a 42 inch minimum double-compartment sink and domestic dishwashing machine capable of sanitizing dishes with 160 degrees F. water;

(4) dining space of 20 square feet per resident; and

(5) storage space for non-perishables.

(e) Other areas shall include:

(1) a minimum of 150 square feet exclusive of corridor traffic for recreational and social activities;

(2) an audible and accessible call system furnished in each resident's room and bathroom; and

(3) heating and air cooling equipment to maintain a comfort range between 68 degrees and 80 degrees Fahrenheit.