

## Chapter H 27

## MATERNITY HOSPITALS—PHYSICAL PLANT

## PLAN APPROVAL

H 27.011	Plans for new construction or remodeling	H 27.514	Nursing unit
H 27.153	General construction	H 27.555	Nursery department
H 27.205	Heating and ventilating	H 27.582	Formula department
H 27.224	Power and lighting	H 27.615	Isolation department
H 27.303	Plumbing	H 27.643	Kitchen sanitation
H 27.343	Kitchen facilities	H 27.771	Washing and sanitation of kitchen utensils
H 27.423	Maternity department	H 27.853	General sanitation
H 27.457	Labor-delivery suite		

**History:** Chapter H26, Maternity hospitals and homes, H27, Maternity hospitals and homes—sanitation, H28, Maternity hospitals and homes—administration and practices, and chapter H29, Maternity hospitals and homes—obstetrical and nursery facilities, (1-2-56) were repealed, Register, January, 1960, No. 49, eff. 2-1-60.

## PLAN APPROVAL

H 27.011 Plans for new construction or remodeling. (1) PRELIMINARY OR SCHEMATIC PLANS. One copy of the preliminary or schematic plans shall be submitted to the state board of health for review and approval prior to the preparation of final plans and specifications.

(2) FINAL PLANS. One copy of final plans and specifications shall be submitted to the state board of health for review and approval before construction is started.

**History:** Cr. Register, January, 1960, No. 49, eff. 2-1-60.

## CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

H 27.153 General construction. (1) WALLS. (a) Delivery and labor rooms shall have walls of smooth washable surfaces.

(b) Kitchens, utility rooms, baths, janitor's closets, sterilizing rooms and spaces with sinks shall have smooth washable wall surfaces up to the splash or spray levels and shall be kept in good repair.

(2) FLOORS. (a) Patient room floors including coves and baseboard shall be smooth and easily cleaned.

(b) All service rooms including kitchens and utility rooms shall have smooth, waterproof, wear-resistant surfaces, such as terrazzo, tile or equivalent.

(c) Approved conductive flooring shall be provided and properly maintained for rooms where explosive gases are used or stored.

(d) *In new construction*, approved, conductive flooring shall be provided and properly maintained for delivery rooms, anesthetic storage rooms, anesthetic induction rooms and other areas where explosive gases are used or stored.

(3) FIRE SAFETY. (a) Appropriate special duty fire extinguishers shall be provided in kitchens, laundries, paint shops, delivery suites, and laboratories.

Register, January, 1960, No. 49

(b) All fire protection equipment shall be inspected annually and maintained in readily usable condition.

(c) Where oxygen and other compressed gas tanks are in use, transit or stored, they shall be adequately secured.

(4) **ACOUSTICAL MATERIALS**—*in new construction.* Where acoustical materials are used, they shall be of the incombustible type.

(5) **VERTICAL OPENINGS AND SHAFTWAYS**—*in new construction.*  
 (a) Vertical openings and shaftways in one-story buildings with basements shall be of one-hour fire-resistive construction and provided with self-closing doors of equivalent fire protection.

(b) Vertical openings and shaftways in buildings 2 or more stories in height shall be enclosed with 2-hour fire-resistive partitions and provided with self-closing doors of equivalent 2-hour fire-resistive construction.

(6) **DOORS**—*in new construction.* (a) Doorways for all bedrooms, treatment rooms, delivery rooms, labor rooms and solaria shall be at least 3 feet 8 inches.

(b) Patient room doors shall swing into patient rooms.

(c) Doors of private toilet rooms adjoining patient rooms shall open into the patient rooms.

(d) Labor room toilet doors shall be at least 30 inches wide.

(7) **CORRIDORS**—*in new construction.* Corridors shall be at least 7 feet in width in patient areas and in other areas where patients may be transported by beds or vehicles.

**History:** Cr. Register, January, 1960, No. 49, eff. 2-1-60.

#### **H 27.205 Heating and ventilating. (1) HEATING PLANT.**

(a) *In new construction,* the building shall be heated by hot water, steam or an equivalent type of heating system other than the simple hot air recirculation type.

(b) The heating system shall be capable of maintaining satisfactory and substantially uniform temperatures.

(c) An auxiliary source of heat other than open electrical coil heaters shall be provided in nurseries.

(2) **INCINERATION.** An incinerator shall be provided.

(3) **MECHANICAL VENTILATION.** (a) Mechanical ventilation—*recommendation.* It is recommended that mechanical ventilation be provided to introduce fresh heated humidified air to maintain a room temperature of 75° F. and humidity of 55% in delivery rooms and nurseries.

(b) *In new construction,* mechanical ventilation which introduces fresh heated humidified air to maintain a room temperature of 75° F. and humidity of 55% shall be provided in delivery room and nurseries.

(c) Where mechanical ventilation is provided, it shall meet the following minimum capacity requirements for various rooms:

1. Delivery room—8 changes per hour—No recirculation is permitted.

2. Nursery and nursery workroom—8 changes per hour—No recirculation from other than nursery proper.

3. Laundry—10 changes per hour.

4. Kitchen—4 cubic feet per minute per square foot floor area.

5. Anesthesia storage rooms—4 cubic feet per minute per square foot floor area.
6. Toilet rooms—2 cubic feet per minute per square foot floor area.
7. Storage rooms—2 changes per hour.
8. Other occupied interior—6 changes per hour.

(d) Window type temperature regulating units. In rooms where explosive gases are used or stored window type temperature regulating units shall be installed above 5 feet from the floor.

**History:** Cr. Register, January, 1960, No. 49, eff. 2-1-60.

**H 27.224 Power and lighting.** (1) **HAZARDOUS AREA ELECTRICAL PRECAUTIONS.** (a) Explosive gases—recommendation. It is recommended that delivery rooms and other rooms where explosive gases are used or stored be protected in accordance with the recommendations for use of flammable anesthetics.

(b) *In new construction*, delivery rooms and other rooms where explosive gases are used or stored shall be protected in accordance with the recommendations for use of flammable anesthetics.

(2) **ELECTRICAL CORDS.** Electrical cords shall be maintained in good repair.

(3) **LIGHTING FIXTURES.** (a) Proper lighting fixtures for the space and occupancy shall be furnished.

(b) Adequate illumination of the delivery field and adequate general illumination shall be provided in the delivery room.

(c) The lights for the illumination of the delivery field shall be connected to the emergency lighting system or a battery-type unit shall be provided.

(4) **EMERGENCY POWER.** (a) At least battery-type emergency power shall be provided for the delivery room, exits, stairs and patient corridors.

(b) *In new construction*, motor generator emergency power for lighting and outlets for operation of equipment shall be provided for the delivery room, nursery, exits, stairs and patient corridors.

(c) Emergency circuit—recommendation. It is recommended *in new construction* that one boiler with firing controls and circulating pump, and one elevator be connected to the emergency circuit.

(d) There shall be an automatic transfer switch or equivalent which will throw the circuits to the emergency service in case of power failure.

(e) The emergency lighting plant shall be tested monthly.

(5) **SWITCHES, OUTLETS, FIXTURES, ETC.** (a) Switches, fixtures and receptacles in rooms where explosive gases are used or stored shall be at least five feet from the floor; those located below five feet shall be approved explosion-proof devices.

(b) *In new construction*, the standard electrical nurses' call system, consisting of bedside switch, corridor signal light and nurses' station panel, shall be extended to include patient, toilet, nursery, labor and delivery rooms.

(c) *In new construction*, switches for general illumination and night lights in patient rooms shall be of an approved mercury or quiet operating type.

(d) *In new construction*, electric clocks shall be provided in the delivery room.

**History:** Cr. Register, January, 1960, No. 49, eff. 2-1-60.

**H 27.303 Plumbing.** (1) **WATER SUPPLY.** (a) Where a public water supply is available it shall be used.

(b) Where a public water supply is not available, the well or wells shall comply with the Wisconsin well construction and pump installation code.

(c) Water samples from an approved well shall be tested at the state laboratory of hygiene or a state approved laboratory at least annually.

(2) **PLUMBING CODE.** The water supply system shall in all respects conform with the requirements of the Wisconsin state plumbing code.

(3) **HOT WATER SUPPLY.** (a) A sufficient supply of hot water shall be provided in accordance with the following requirements:

1. *General use:*

Water temperature -----110°-140° F. at taps.

Heater capacity, minimum -----5 gallons per patient per hour.

Storage tank capacity, minimum -----4 gallons per patient.

2. *Laundry and dishwashing:*

Water temperature at the point of use -----170°-180° F.

Heater capacity, minimum -----8 gallons per patient per hour.

Storage tank capacity, minimum -----6 gallons per patient.

(b) Hot water circulation—recommendation. It is recommended that hot water circulating mains and risers be provided.

(4) **APPROVED HANDWASHING FACILITIES.** (a) Approved handwashing facilities shall be provided for:

1. Labor room.

2. Scrub sink adjacent to delivery room.

3. Nurseries.

4. Nursery work room.

5. Examining room.

6. Formula room.

7. Isolation and segregation facilities.

8. Kitchen.

(b) Handwashing facilities, lavatories and sinks in the maternity department shall be equipped with special valves that do not require direct hand contact; provision of wrist-actuated spade-type handles shall be considered minimal.

(c) *In new construction*, approved type handwashing facilities shall be provided for each patient room.

(d) Valve mechanisms—recommendation. It is recommended that the following valve mechanisms for handwashing facilities be provided:

1. Patient and utility rooms—wrist, knee or foot.

2. Nurseries, examination, treatment and labor rooms—knee or foot.

3. Scrub facilities, formula room—knee or foot.

4. Suspect nursery, isolation facilities—knee or foot.

(5) **AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER PROTECTION.** (a) Hospitals of nonfire-resistant construction and more than one story in height shall be protected against fire by an approved automatic sprinkler system installed prior to July 1, 1961.

1. Where the maternity department is located in a nonfire-resistant building more than one story in height, the entire hospital shall be protected by an automatic sprinkler system.

2. Where the maternity department is nonfire-resistant and more than one story in height and the main building is fire-resistant, only the maternity department need be protected by an automatic sprinkler system.

3. Where the maternity department is fire-resistant and the main building is nonfire-resistant, the department shall be separated by Class A fire doors.

4. Where a fire sprinkler system is to be installed, three copies of the plans and specifications shall be submitted to the state board of health for review and approval before installation.

(b) Linen chutes and trash chutes shall be provided with automatic fusible link actuated sprinkler heads located at the top of the shafts.

(6) SEWAGE DISPOSAL. Liquid wastes shall be discharged into a sewer system connected with the public sewer system, if available, or into a treatment system approved by the state board of health.

**History:** Cr. Register, January, 1960, No. 49, eff. 2-1-60.

**H 27.343 Kitchen facilities.** (1) LOCATION. Kitchen shall be separated from sleeping quarters, service areas and toilet rooms.

(2) HANDWASHING FACILITIES. A separate handwashing lavatory with hot and cold running water, soap, and individual towels shall be provided in the kitchen.

(3) KITCHEN AREA TOILET ROOM. Toilet rooms equipped with handwashing facilities, soap, and individual towels shall be provided adjacent to the food department.

(4) DRESSING ROOM. (a) It is recommended that an employe's dressing room with locker facilities be provided.

(b) *In new construction*, an employe's dressing room with locker facilities shall be provided.

(5) GARBAGE AND REFUSE DISPOSAL. (a) Garbage and refuse shall be collected, stored and disposed of in a manner that will not permit the transmission of a contagious disease, create a nuisance or fire hazard, or provide a breeding place for insects or rodents.

(b) Garbage and refuse receptacles shall be:

1. Durable, watertight, insect- and rodent-proof and covered with tight-fitting lids.

2. Kept covered at all times except when the lid is removed for temporary use.

3. Emptied at frequent intervals.

4. Cleaned and disinfected after each emptying.

(c) Facilities for washing containers shall be provided.

(d) When municipal garbage collection and disposal service are not available, garbage shall be disposed of by garbage grinders (when not in conflict with local regulations), incineration, burial, sanitary fill, or other approved method.

(6) REFRIGERATION. Perishable food and drink except when being prepared or served shall be kept in a refrigerator which shall have a temperature maintained at or below 40° F.

**History:** Cr. Register, January, 1960, No. 49, eff. 2-1-60.

Register, January, 1960, No. 49

### ACCOMMODATIONS AND EQUIPMENT FOR PATIENTS

**H 27.423 Maternity department.** The maternity department, including the labor-delivery suite, nursing unit and nursery, shall be segregated from other general patient areas and shall not be adjacent to sections of the hospital subject to contamination from infectious or contagious diseases.

**History:** Cr. Register, January, 1960, No. 49, eff. 2-1-60.

**H 27.457 Labor-delivery suite. (1) FACILITIES.** (a) Facilities shall include the following:

1. At least one room equipped as a delivery room used exclusively for clean obstetrics and circumcisions done at time of delivery.
2. Labor room.
3. Scrub-up room or area adjacent to delivery room.
4. Clean-up or utility room.
5. *In new construction*, janitor's closet.
6. Storage space for sterile supplies, stretcher and wheel chair.

(b) Additional facilities—recommendation. It is recommended that the following facilities be provided:

1. Doctor's and nurse's locker room.
2. Recovery room.

(c) The labor-delivery suite shall be located in a separate wing, projecting alcove, or at a corridor dead-end.

(2) **STERILIZING SERVICE.** (a) Sterilizing service shall be available to the labor-delivery suite.

(b) Sterilizers shall be checked at least every 3 months for pressure, temperature and proper functioning.

(c) Sterilizers located in central supplies shall be considered as being available to the labor-delivery suite.

(3) **LABOR ROOM.** (a) A labor room or private room suitable for such use shall be provided.

(b) Labor rooms shall be located near the delivery room and afford privacy for the patient.

(c) Equipment shall be furnished for such examination and preparation as required by the physician.

(d) Approved type hand washing facilities shall be provided in the labor room.

(e) *In new construction*, a patient's toilet shall be located adjacent to or near the labor room.

(f) *In new construction*, electrical nurses' call system shall be provided.

(4) **DELIVERY ROOM AND HAZARDOUS AREA EQUIPMENT.** (a) Delivery tables, stands, stretchers, anesthesia machine and all similar equipment shall be provided with appropriate grounding devices in rooms where explosive gases are used.

(b) The pad on the delivery table and the mouth piece, hose and bellows of the anesthesia machine shall be of conductive material.

(c) Heated bassinets or incubators shall be of a type approved for hazardous areas.

(d) *In new construction*, electrical nurses' call system shall be provided.

(e) Suction apparatus shall be provided.

**History:** Cr. Register, January, 1960, No. 49, eff. 2-1-60.

Register, January, 1960, No. 49

**H 27.514 Nursing unit. (1) FACILITIES. (a)** The following facilities shall be provided for the nursing unit of the maternity department:

1. Patient rooms and toilet facilities.
2. Segregation facilities.
3. Nurses' station with locked drug cabinet.
4. Utility room.
5. Dietary facilities if 24-hour kitchen service is not available.
6. Patients' shower room.
7. Storage for drugs, linen, supplies, stretcher and wheel chairs.
8. Janitor's closet.
9. *In new construction*, nurses' locker and toilet rooms.

(b) Nursing unit facilities—recommendation. It is recommended that the following facilities be provided:

1. Lounge and dining room.
2. Nurses' locker and toilet rooms.

(2) **PATIENT ROOMS. (a)** The following minimum floor area per bed shall be provided:

- 80 square feet for multiple-patient rooms.
- 100 square feet for single patient rooms.
- 100 square feet for patient rooms used for "rooming-in".

(b) The distance between patient beds shall be at least 3 feet.

(c) Means of signaling hospital personnel shall be provided at the bedside of patients.

(d) *In new construction*, electrical nurses' call system shall be provided.

(e) *In new construction*, switches in patient rooms shall be of an approved mercury or quiet operating type.

(f) A hospital type bed with suitable mattress, pillow and necessary coverings shall be provided for each patient.

(g) There shall be a bedside table or stand and chair for each maternity patient.

(h) There shall be sufficient and satisfactory storage space for clothing, toilet articles and other personal belongings of patients.

(i) Means for assuring privacy for each patient shall be provided and maintained in a safe way.

(j) A shower for the exclusive use of maternity patients shall be provided for every 10 maternity patients.

(k) *In new construction*, approved type hand washing facilities shall be provided for each patient room.

(3) **SEGREGATION. (a)** Segregation facilities within the maternity department shall be provided.

(b) A single room with toilet and handwashing facilities shall be considered minimal.

(4) **DRUG STORAGE. (a)** Adequate storage for drugs shall be provided.

(b) A locked cabinet shall be provided for narcotics and dangerous drugs.

(5) **LOUNGE AND DINING ROOM.** Where lounge and dining facilities for maternity patients are provided, they shall be physically separated from facilities for general patients.

**History:** Cr. Register, January, 1960, No. 49, eff. 2-1-60.

Register, January, 1960, No. 49

**H 27.555 Nursery department.** (1) **NURSERY.** (a) A separate nursery or nurseries for newborn infants shall be provided unless "rooming-in" is employed.

(b) A minimum floor area for each bassinet shall be as follows:

1. Full-term nursery, 24 square feet per bassinet.
2. Premature nursery, 30 square feet per bassinet.
3. Suspect nursery, 40 square feet per bassinet.
4. There shall be a minimum of 2 feet between bassinets.

(c) *In new construction*, the maximum bassinet capacity of nurseries shall be as follows:

1. Full-term nursery, 12 bassinets.
2. Premature nursery, 8 bassinets.
3. Suspect nursery, 4 bassinets.

(d) Cubicle partitions—recommendation. It is recommended that cubicle partitions in nurseries be avoided.

(e) The following equipment shall be provided in the nursery:

1. Each infant shall be provided with an individual bassinet.
2. Oxygen shall be readily available in the nursery at all times.
3. Where oxygen and compressed gas tanks are used, they shall be adequately secured.
4. A clock with a second hand shall be provided in every nursery.
5. Approved handwashing facilities shall be provided in every nursery.

(f) Approved incubator—recommendation. It is recommended that each nursery have at least one approved incubator.

(g) A janitor's closet or cabinet space shall be provided for exclusive use of nursery cleaning equipment.

(2) **EXAMINATION AREA AND WORK SPACE.** (a) An adequate examination area and work space shall be provided for each nursery.

(b) Each examining area and work area shall be provided with a scrub-up sink having foot-, knee-, or elbow-action control; counter with counter sink having a gooseneck spout and wrist-action controls.

(3) **SUSPECT NURSERY.** A suspect nursery or private patient room with approved handwashing facilities shall be provided.

**History:** Cr. Register, January, 1960, No. 49, eff. 2-1-60.

**H 27.582 Formula department.** (1) **FORMULA ROOM.** (a) A separate room or safe area shall be provided for the preparation of infant formulas.

(b) *In new construction*, a separate room or safe area outside the nursery shall be provided for preparation of infant formula.

(2) **HANDWASHING SINK.** The formula room or area shall contain a handwashing lavatory with gooseneck spout and foot-, or elbow-action controls.

(3) **BOTTLE CLEANING, STERILIZATION AND REFRIGERATION.** Equipment for proper cleaning of bottles, terminal sterilization and refrigeration of formula shall be provided.

**History:** Cr. Register, January, 1960, No. 49, eff. 2-1-60.

**H 27.615 Isolation department.** (1) **ISOLATION.** (a) Isolation facilities outside the maternity department shall be provided.

(b) A single room with toilet and handwashing facilities shall be considered minimal.



(c) *In new construction*, a separate sub-utility room containing a sink with gooseneck spout and foot-, knee-, or elbow-action controls, a sterilizer and a work counter shall be provided.

**History:** Cr. Register, January, 1960, No. 49, eff. 2-1-60.

## SANITATION

**H 27.643 Kitchen sanitation.** (1) **KITCHEN COUNTERS.** Surfaces with which food or beverages come in contact shall be of smooth, impervious material free of open seams, not readily corrodible and easily accessible for cleaning.

(2) **UTENSIL STORAGE.** Utensils shall be stored in a clean, dry place protected from flies, splash, dust, overhead leakage and condensation and other contamination. Wherever practicable, utensils shall be covered or inverted.

(3) **WALLS, CEILINGS AND FLOORS.** Walls, ceilings, and floors of all rooms in which food or drink are stored, prepared, or served shall be kept clean and in good repair.

(4) **METHODS OF CLEANING.** (a) Dustless methods of cleaning shall be used.

(b) All except emergency cleaning shall be done during those periods when the least amounts of food and drink are exposed.

(5) **TIN CAN DISPOSAL.** Tin cans shall be rinsed and flattened before disposal if not otherwise disposed of in a sanitary manner.

**History:** Cr. Register, January, 1960, No. 49, eff. 2-1-60.

**H 27.771 Washing and sanitization of kitchen utensils.** (1) **DEFINITION OF UTENSILS.** Utensils shall include any dishes, kitchenware, tableware, glassware, cutlery, containers, covers, or other equipment with which food and drink come in contact during storage, preparation or serving.

(2) **PREWASH.** Facilities for either manual or mechanical prewashing shall be provided.

(3) **MANUAL CLEANING.** (a) A two-compartment sink shall be provided.

(b) Three-compartment sink—recommendation. It is recommended *in new construction* that a three-compartment sink be provided.

(c) The utensils shall be washed in hot water at a temperature of 110°–120° F., containing an adequate amount of an effective soap or detergent. Water shall be kept clean by changing it frequently.

(d) Following handwashing, all utensils shall be sanitized by either of the following two methods:

1. First method. Submerge all utensils for 30 seconds in clean water maintained at a temperature of 170° F. or more.

2. Second method. All utensils shall be submerged or rinsed following the washing operation in hot water at a minimum temperature of 110° F. to remove soap or detergent, and then be submerged for at least 2 minutes in a hypochlorite solution. The solution shall be made up with chlorine concentration of at least 100 parts per million and shall be discarded when the chlorine concentration goes below 50 parts

per million. All hypochlorite solutions shall be prepared fresh at least 3 times each day prior to its use in sanitizing the dishes used at each main meal period, and at least twice each day if only glassware is sanitized. Soaps, water softeners, washing compounds and detergents shall not be added to hypochlorite solutions. Utensils shall be racked in baskets so that all surfaces will be reached by the chemical solution while submerged. Other chemical sanitizing solutions may be approved for use by the state health officer in which case the concentration will be specified.

(e) A suitable thermometer shall be provided for frequent determination of the temperature of the water used for sanitizing, washing and rinsing utensils.

(4) **MECHANICAL CLEANING.** (a) Utensils shall be stacked in racks or trays so as to avoid overcrowding and in such manner as to assure complete washing contact with all surfaces of each article.

(b) The wash water temperature of the utensil washing machine shall be held at from 130°–150° F. The utensils shall be in the washing section for at least 20 seconds.

(c) A detergent shall be used in all utensil washing machines.

(d) Automatic detergent dispensers—recommendation. It is recommended that utensil washing machines be equipped with automatic detergent dispensers so that the maximum efficiency of the machines can be obtained.

(e) For sanitizing in a spray type machine, dishes shall be subjected to a rinse period of 10 seconds or more at a temperature in the line of at least 180° F. For sanitizing in an immersion tank type machine, dishes shall be submerged for 30 seconds or more with water at a temperature of 170° F. or more. There shall be a constant change of water through the inlet and overflow.

(f) Thermometers shall be located in both the wash compartment and rinse water lines at the machine so as to be readily visible.

(g) Thermostatic control—recommendation. It is recommended that thermostatic control of the temperature of the wash and rinse water be provided for existing equipment.

(h) *In new construction*, thermostatic control of the temperature of the wash and rinse water shall be provided.

(5) **DRYING OF UTENSILS.** (a) Drying cloths, if used, shall be clean and shall be used for no other purpose.

(b) Drying of utensils—recommendation. It is recommended that utensils be allowed to drain and air dry in racks or baskets.

(6) **SANITIZING OF WASHING AIDS.** Brushes, dish mops, dishcloths, drying cloths and other hand aids used in dishwashing operation shall be sanitized after each period of use.

**History:** Cr. Register, January, 1960, No. 49, eff. 2-1-60.

**H 27.853 General sanitation.** (1) **INSECT AND RODENT CONTROL.** (a) Necessary means for the elimination of rodents, flies, roaches, bedbugs, fleas and lice shall be used.

(b) Poisonous compounds shall be stored in original containers separate from food and kitchenware and properly protected.

(2) COMMON DRINKING VESSELS. No common drinking vessels shall be permitted.

(3) COMMON TOWELS. No common towels shall be permitted at hand-washing sinks.

**History:** Cr. Register, January, 1960, No. 49, eff. 2-1-60.

Next page is numbered 71