

## Chapter H 34

NURSING HOMES—BUILDINGS AND  
EQUIPMENT

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## PHYSICAL PLANT

**H 34.015 Submission of plans for nursing homes.** Before construction or conversion is begun, plans covering the construction of new buildings, additions to existing buildings, conversion of existing buildings, or for major remodeling or alterations of existing buildings shall be submitted to the board for its approval. These plans shall show the general arrangement of the buildings, including a room schedule and fixed equipment for each room, together with other pertinent information.

**History:** 1-2-56; r., recr. and renum. from H 34.20 to be H 34.015, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.025 Water supply.** The water supply shall be of safe, sanitary quality, suitable for use, and shall be obtained from a water supply system, the location, construction, and operation of which shall comply with the standards approved by the board.

**History:** 1-2-56; renum. from H 34.40 to be H 34.025, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.035 Sewage disposal.** All sewage shall be discharged into a municipal sewerage system where such a system is available; otherwise, the sewage shall be collected, treated, and disposed of by means of an independent sewerage system approved by the board.

**History:** 1-2-56; renum. from H 34.42 to be H 34.035, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.045 Garbage disposal.** All garbage shall be stored in water-tight containers with tight fitting covers and shall be disposed of in a manner that will not permit transmission of disease, create a nuisance, or provide a breeding place for flies.

**History:** 1-2-56; renum. from H 34.43 to be H 34.045, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.055 Plumbing.** The plumbing and drainage for the disposal of excreta, infectious discharge and wastes shall be in accordance with the plumbing standards of the board.

**History:** 1-2-56; renum. from H 34.45 to be H 34.055, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

## CONSTRUCTION

**H 34.101 Heating.** A minimum temperature of 75° F. shall be maintained during the day and at least 72° F. during the night in all bedrooms and in all other areas used by patients and residents. More warmth than this minimum may be provided when desired for the comfort of patients.

**History:** 1-2-56; renum. from H 33.42 to be H 34.101, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.105 Ventilation.** Kitchens, bathrooms, utility and soiled linen rooms shall be ventilated to prevent objectionable odors from permeating through the building.

**History:** 1-2-56; renum. from H 34.22 to be H 34.105, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.12 Lighting.** Artificial lighting shall be adequate in all rooms, storerooms, attics, basements and passageways.

**History:** 1-2-56; renum. from H 34.23 to be H 34.12, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.13 Flashlights.** Emergency lighting (flashlights) shall be provided and distributed so as to be readily available to personnel on duty.

**History:** 1-2-56; renum. from H 34.24 to be H 34.13, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.14 Adequate lighting, halls, stairways.** Every hall and stairway shall be adequately lighted at all times by means of properly located electric light fixtures. Electrical lighting may be omitted from sunrise to sunset where there are windows or skylights opening directly to the outside, providing adequate light.

**History:** Cr. Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.15 Electrical cords.** All electrical cords and wall receptacles shall be maintained in good repair, and no electrical cords shall be strung under carpets or rugs.

**History:** Cr. Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

## FIRE PROTECTION

**H 34.205 Housing bedfast patients in nonfire-resistive buildings.** (1) Bedfast and chairfast patients, or persons in any way incapable of moving freely in case of emergency, shall not be housed on any floor above the ground floor in nonfire-resistive building unless the entire building is protected by an approved automatic sprinkler system.

(2) The deadline date for the removal of bedfast and chairfast patients to the first floor in a nonfire-resistive building shall be July 1, 1961, unless an approved automatic sprinkler system is installed.

(3) Where the number of bedfast and chairfast patients exceeds the licensed bed capacity of the first floor on July 1, 1959, the excess number of such patients prior to July 1, 1961, shall be gradually reduced as they are discharged and no new bedfast or chairfast patients shall be admitted to the second floor unless the required sprinkler system is installed.

(4) Where an automatic 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.

**History:** 1-2-56; r., recr. and renun. from H 33.02 to be H 34.205, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.21 Nonfire-resistive buildings; automatic sprinkler system—recommendation.** It is *recommended* that all nonfire-resistive buildings install approved automatic sprinkler systems, irrespective of the type of patients cared for or the number of floors in the structure.

**History:** Cr. Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.235 Fire equipment.** All fire protection equipment shall be maintained in readily usable condition and inspected annually. An additional fire extinguisher suitable for grease fires shall be provided in or adjacent to the kitchen.

**History:** 1-2-56; r., recr. and renun. from H 34.63 to be H 34.235, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.26 Decorative material flame-resistant—recommendation.** It is *recommended* that all combustible decorative and acoustical material, including textile floor coverings and curtains located in corridors, passageways or stairway enclosures and in lobbies or other rooms or spaces for use by occupants or visitors, be rendered and maintained flame-resistant.

**History:** Cr. Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

## PATIENT ROOMS

**H 34.301 Floor spacing—minimum.** The minimum floor area per bed shall be 60 square feet of clear floor area in bedrooms. The beds shall be so arranged that the heads of the beds shall be a minimum of 3 feet apart and a clear aisle space of 3 feet in width to afford access to each bed within a room.

**History:** 1-2-56; r., recr. and renun. from H 34.31 to be H 34.301, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**34.305 Floor spacing—recommendation.** It is *recommended* that 100 square feet of floor space be provided in single bedrooms and 80 square feet per bed in multiple bedrooms.

**History:** 1-2-56; renun. from H 34.315 to be H 34.305, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

Register, June, 1959, No. 42

**H 34.325 Separation of sexes.** Sexes shall be separated by means of separate wings, floors or rooms, except in cases of husband and wife. Rooms shall be so arranged that it will not be necessary for a patient to pass through another patient's room to gain access to a bathroom, dining room, day room or similar areas.

**History:** 1-2-56; r, recr., and renum. from H 34.53 to be H 34.325, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

### PATIENT ROOM EQUIPMENT

**34.35 Bed.** Each patient shall have at least a standard 36 inch wide bed with springs, a comfortable clean mattress and pillow. Cots shall not be used.

**History:** 1-2-56; r, recr. and renum. from H 34.01 to be H 34.35, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**34.36 Regular bed for ambulatory patient—recommendation.** It is recommended that ambulatory patients occupy a bed of usual height instead of a high hospital bed.

**History:** Cr. Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.37 Bed linens.** Each bed shall have sufficient washable bedding and linen for warmth and cleanliness. Two sheets, two pillow cases per pillow and an adequate number of blankets for warmth shall be furnished at least once a week. Bed linen shall be changed promptly whenever soiled or unsanitary. A waterproof sheet shall be on each bed where needed.

**History:** Cr. Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.49 Waterproof mattress covers—recommendation.** It is recommended that waterproof sheets or plastic mattress covers be used on every bed, regardless of the condition of the patient.

**History:** Cr. Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.405 Rails.** Side rails for beds shall be made available for the protection of patients when needed.

**History:** 1-2-56; renum. from H 34.02 to be H 34.405, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.415 Lockers.** Lockers or closets shall be adequately provided for the storage of patient's clothing.

**History:** 1-2-56; renum. from H 34.03 to be H 34.415, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.425 Privacy.** Bed screens for privacy shall be made available for use in multiple bedrooms by adequate cubicle curtains or portable screens.

**History:** 1-2-56; renum. from H 34.07 to be H 34.425, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.435 Equipment for patient care.** Individual mouth wash cups, wash basins, bedpans, and standard urinals shall be provided for each bed patient. This equipment shall be so stored that it cannot be interchanged between patients. There shall be such other nursing equipment as may be required, including an adequate supply of rectal and mouth thermometers. Separate sputum receptacles with disposable containers shall be available for use as needed. There shall be adequate facilities for all necessary sterilization.

**History:** 1-2-56; renum. from H 34.08 to be H 34.435, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

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**H 34.455 Individual towels.** Common towels shall not be used in washrooms or bathrooms. Each patient shall have individual towels and wash cloths kept at the bedside.

**History:** 1-2-56; renum. from H 34.04 to be H 34.455, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.465 Covers, bedpan.** Bedpan covers shall be used and shall not be interchangeable.

**History:** 1-2-56; renum. from H 34.05 to be H 34.465, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.475 Chair.** A comfortable chair shall be available for each patient able to use one.

**History:** 1-2-56; renum. from H 34.06 to be H 34.475, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.485 Furnishings and equipment maintained usable.** All furnishings and equipment shall be maintained in a usable, safe and sanitary condition.

**History:** Cr. Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.49 Bedside stand.** A bedside stand shall be available for each patient in his room and storage space shall be provided near the bed for reasonable patient's possessions.

**History:** Cr. Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.495 Window coverings.** Every window shall be supplied with shades, draw drapes or other devices or materials which, when properly used and maintained, shall afford privacy to the occupant of each nursing unit.

**History:** Cr. Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.505 Room numbers.** All patient room doors shall be numbered.

**History:** 1-2-56; renum. from H 34.50 to be H 34.505, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.51 Wheel chairs—recommendation.** A wheel chair is recommended for those patients as the need requires.

**History:** 1-2-56; renum. from H 34.10 to be H 34.51, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.513 Call system.** Means of calling attendants shall be provided for bedfast patients. Hand bells are acceptable but shall be readily accessible.

**History:** 1-2-56; renum. from H 34.09 to be H 34.513, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

## TOILET FACILITIES

**H 34.555 Toilet facilities—recommendation.** (1) Separate toilet facilities are recommended for male and female residents. The recommended minimum ratios are as follows:

- 1 toilet and 1 lavatory for every 8 female residents
- 1 toilet and 1 lavatory for every 8 male residents
- 1 bathtub or shower for every 20 residents

(2) A flush rim clinic service sink and a work counter are recommended on each floor where 10 or more bed patients are accommodated.

**History:** 1-2-56; r., recr., and renum. from H 34.46 to be H 34.555, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.57 Toilet, bath and utility facilities.** (1) At least one toilet and one lavatory basin, properly connected to an approved water and sewer system and in good working condition, shall be supplied for every 10 persons or fraction thereof.

(2) At least one bath, properly connected to an approved water and sewer system and in good working condition, shall be supplied for every 20 persons or fraction thereof.

**History:** Cr. Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.58 Indoor toilets.** (1) Indoor toilet facilities and lavatory for hand washing shall be required.

(2) The lavatory shall have both hot and cold running water. The water closet shall be water flushed and of approved type.

**History:** 1-2-56; r., recr. and renum. from H 34.47 to be H 34.58, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

## KITCHEN

**H 34.60 Kitchen location.** The kitchen shall be located on the premises, or a satisfactory sanitary method of transportation of food shall be used so that the food can be served hot or cold as desired.

**History:** 1-2-56; r., recr. and renum. from H 33.55 to be H 34.60, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.601 Separation of kitchen.** Kitchen or food preparation areas shall not open into patient rooms, toilet rooms or laundry.

**History:** 1-2-56; r., recr. and renum. from H 33.56 to be H 34.601, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.61 Hand washing facilities.** Adequate and convenient hand washing facilities shall be provided for use by food handlers, including hot and cold running water, soap and approved sanitary towels. Use of a common towel is prohibited.

**History:** 1-2-56; renum. from H 33.53 to be H 34.61, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.62 Two-compartment sink.** A two-compartment sink shall be provided in kitchens or dishwashing areas of all newly licensed homes. Existing homes shall provide two-compartment sinks when the present dishwashing sinks are replaced.

**History:** 1-2-56; r., recr. and renum. from H 33.78 to be H 34.62, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.64 Three-compartment sink—recommendation.** It is *recommended* that a three-compartment sink be provided for all new installations.

**History:** 1-2-56; renum. from H 33.785 to be H 34.64, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

## GENERAL

**H 34.651 Dining room—recommendation.** It is *recommended* that a dining room be provided for ambulatory patients.

**History:** 1-2-56; renum. from H 34.55 to be H 34.651, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.655 Sitting room.** A sitting room or lounge of suitable size shall be provided for the use of patients.

**History:** 1-2-56; r., recr. and renum. from H 34.54 to be H 34.655, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

Register, June, 1959, No. 42

**H 34.665 Incineration.** There shall be facilities for the incineration of soiled dressings and similar wastes together with such other garbage and refuse for which other methods of disposal are not available.

**History:** 1-2-56; renum. from H 34.48 to be H 34.665, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.67 Laundry.** Facilities shall be provided for the washing, rinsing, and cleaning of linen and other washable goods. Food preparation and serving areas shall not be used for washing, rinsing, and cleaning of linen and other washable goods.

**History:** 1-2-56; renum. from H 34.29 to be H 34.67, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.69 Telephone.** There shall be at least one telephone on the premises, and such additional telephones as are deemed necessary for emergency.

**History:** 1-2-56; renum. from H 34.30 to be H 34.69, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.70 History:** 1-2-56; r. Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.705 Personal belongings—employees.** Facilities shall be provided for employes preparing or serving food to eliminate necessity of keeping wraps, purses, and other personal belongings in the preparation and serving areas.

**History:** 1-2-56; renum. from H 33.54 to be H 34.705, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.71 History:** 1-2-56; r. Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

**H 34.75 Screens.** All outside openings shall be provided with wire screening of not less than number 16 mesh or its equivalent and shall be properly maintained.

(1) Screens for windows shall cover at least one-third of the window area.

(2) Screen doors shall be self closing.

(3) Screens shall be completely installed prior to June 1 of each year.

**History:** 1-2-56; r., recr. and renum. from H 34.27 to be H 34.75, Register, June, 1959, No. 42, eff. 7-1-59.

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