

Comment Period Open for Health Care Design and Construction Guidelines

Download a copy of the draft 2010 edition of the
Guidelines for Design and Construction of Health Care Facilities
from the FGI Web site at www.fgiguideines.org and submit your comments.

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For Immediate Release

DALLAS, TX – August 25, 2008 – The Facility Guidelines Institute today announced that the comment period on the proposed 2010 edition of the *Guidelines for Design and Construction of Health Care Facilities* (the *Guidelines*) opens on September 15, 2008. The comment period closes on December 15, 2008.

The Health Guidelines Revision Committee (HGRC), a consensus group of architects, engineers, and health care professionals, has considered public proposals to update the 2006 edition of the *Guidelines* and has worked to clarify content in and add information to the document. According to Douglas S. Erickson, chairman of the HGRC, “Now that the Revision Committee has developed the draft 2010 edition of the *Guidelines*, we depend on all interested professionals in the health care industry (from clinicians and health facility administrators to facility managers and design professionals) to review the draft carefully and comment on the changes that have been made. This real-life input is critical to the quality of the 2010 edition of this important document.”

The draft 2010 *Guidelines* document is available for review in electronic form; this draft is marked to highlight text that has been added, deleted, or changed from the 2006 edition of the *Guidelines*. Interested individuals or industry organizations can access the draft and instructions for submitting comments through the FGI Web site at www.fgiguideines.org. Comments must be submitted electronically through the FGI Web site no later than December 15, 2008.

New and revised content receiving particular attention in the current *Guidelines* revision cycle includes the following:

- *New* Acoustics in health care facilities
- *New* Facility requirements for safe patient handling and movement
- Surfaces and finishes requirements in health care facilities
- Emergency facilities section in general hospitals
- Obstetric facilities section in general hospitals
- Medical imaging facilities section in general hospitals
- Psychiatric hospitals and psych facilities in general hospitals
- Information technology requirements in general hospitals
- *New* Cancer treatment centers in general hospitals
- *New* Outpatient cancer treatment facilities chapter

- *New* Outpatient rehabilitation facilities chapter
- Birthing centers
- Mobile units
- Ventilation requirements for hospitals and outpatient facilities
- Station outlet requirements for hospitals and outpatient facilities
- *New table* Electrical receptacle requirements
- *New table* Nurse call device requirements

Comments may only address recommended changes in the draft text, new sections of the document, or deletions from the 2006 edition. New proposals for change cannot be accepted at this time. The multidisciplinary Health Guidelines Revision Committee will use these public comments to finalize the next edition of the *Guidelines*, to be published in 2010.

Anyone interested in the planning, design, and construction of health care facilities should review the draft document. The *Guidelines* cover minimum program, space, and equipment needs for all clinical and support areas of hospitals, nursing facilities, freestanding psychiatric facilities, outpatient and rehabilitation facilities, and long-term care facilities. The document also includes minimum engineering design criteria for plumbing, medical gas, electrical, and heating, ventilating, and air conditioning systems.

Any individual or organization wishing to comment on the language and provisions in the 2010 draft of the *Guidelines* should visit the FGI Web site at www.fgiguideines.org, where instructions for submitting comments can be found.

Only those comments submitted through the FGI Web site will be accepted for consideration. No comments will be accepted after December 15, 2008.

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About the *Guidelines for Design and Construction of Health Care Facilities*

The *Guidelines* document is updated every four years to keep pace with new concepts and capabilities in the delivery of health care. The current revision cycle began in April 2007, with the first meeting of the 2010 Health Guidelines Revision Committee. Public proposals for change were received and publicly reviewed by the HGRC, which represents architecture, engineering, clinical, and administrative expertise from the public and private sectors. Operating under a consensus process, the committee considered each proposed revision and then accepted it as proposed, accepted it with modifications, or rejected it. The accepted proposals have been compiled into the draft document that is now available for public review and comment.

Individuals knowledgeable about health care practices and health facility design (physicians, nurses, administrators, facility managers, architects, engineers, infection control experts, interior designers, construction professionals, and other experts) and those who apply the document in the field (state and federal authorities having jurisdiction, or AHJs) serve on the HGRC. More than 40 states use the *Guidelines* to regulate new health care construction and health facility renovation; decisions about how to apply the Guidelines are made by regulators and legislators at the state level. The Joint Commission references the *Guidelines* for accreditation of health care facilities, and the federal government references the document in regulating HUD 242 loan guarantee programs and for Public Health Service and Indian Health Service health care facilities.

About the Facility Guidelines Institute

The Facility Guidelines Institute, a not-for-profit corporation, was founded in 1998 to provide leadership and continuity to the development and publication of the *Guidelines for Design and Construction of Health Care Facilities*. FGI functions as a contractual, fund-raising, and coordinating entity for the cyclical *Guidelines* revision process, supporting the work of the independent Health Guidelines Revision Committee in its goal of updating and improving the content of the *Guidelines* document to encourage its application and use. FGI uses revenue from sales of the *Guidelines* document to support the revision process and to fund research that can inform the *Guidelines* development process. For more information, contact the Facility Guidelines Institute at info@fgiguideines.org.