

SECTIONS

11B-223 Medical care and long-term care facilities

11B-223.1.1 Alterations. Where *patient bedrooms or resident sleeping rooms* are altered or added, the requirements of Section 11B-223 shall apply only to the *patient bedrooms or resident sleeping rooms* being altered or added until the number of *patient bedrooms or resident sleeping rooms* complies with the minimum number required for new construction.

11B-223.1.1.1 Area alterations. *Patient bedroom or resident sleeping rooms added or altered as part of a planned renovation of an entire wing, a department, or other discrete area of an existing medical facility shall comply with Section 11B-805.2 until the number of patient bedrooms or resident sleeping rooms provided within the area of renovation complies with the minimum number required for new construction by Section 11B-223.2 or 11B-223.3.*

11B-223.1.1.2 Individual alterations. *Patient bedrooms or resident sleeping rooms added or altered individually, and not as part of an alteration of an entire area, shall comply with Section 11B-805.2, until either: a) the number of patient bedrooms or resident sleeping rooms provided in the department or area containing the individually altered or added patient bedrooms or resident sleeping rooms complies with the minimum number required if the percentage requirements of Section 11B-223.2 or 11B-223.3 were applied to that department or area; or b) the overall number of patient bedrooms or resident sleeping rooms in the facility complies with the minimum number required for new construction by Section 11B-223.2 or 11B-223.3.*

11B-223.1.1.3 Toilet and bathing facilities. *Toilet/bathing rooms which are part of patient bedrooms added or altered and required to be accessible shall comply with Section 11B-805.2.4.*

INTERPRETATION

When patient bedrooms are added or altered, the requirements of Section 11B-223.1.1 shall apply to only the patient bedrooms being added or altered and shall be consistent with the percentages required by Section 11B-223.2.1, 11B-223.2.2, or 11B-223.3.

Example: In a hospital with 100 acute care bedrooms, of which only 5 are currently accessible, 20 acute care patient bedrooms are proposed to be altered in the obstetrics department.

As required by Section 11B-223.1.1.1, two of the altered acute care bedrooms must be made accessible (10 percent of 20 acute care bedrooms). As a result, the facility would then have 7 percent of the acute care patient bedrooms accessible. Future remodel projects would continue to be subject to the 10 percent requirement, until the 10 percent requirement for the entire facility has been met.

If an existing facility is already in compliance with the percentages required by Section 11B-223.2 or 11B-223.3 as calculated for the entire building, then future remodel projects are not required to provide accessibility beyond the percentages required in Sections 11B-223.2 and 11B-223.3.

Example: In a hospital with 100 acute care bedrooms of which 10 are currently accessible, 20 existing acute care obstetrics patient bedrooms are proposed to be altered.

None of the altered obstetrics patient bedrooms need to be made accessible, because the facility can already demonstrate facility-wide compliance. In this case the dispersion requirement in Section 11B-223.2.1 does not trigger additional accessible rooms that would result in exceeding the minimum requirement for the building. Note that the project may not remove accessible patient bedrooms from service if the result would be to drop below the 10 percent requirement.

The requirements in Sections 11B-223.2 and 11B-223.3 are to be calculated independently of each other. For example, an excess of long-term care bedrooms (50 percent required to be accessible) shall not be used to compensate for a lack of general acute care bedrooms (10 percent required to be accessible).

Example: In a hospital with 100 bedrooms, 80 bedrooms are acute care, of which 5 are accessible, and 20 bedrooms are in a distinct part skilled nursing facility (SNF) of which all 20 are currently accessible. The facility proposes to remodel 20 of the acute care patient bedrooms, none of which are currently accessible.

Two of the 20 remodeled bedrooms must be made accessible to meet the 10 percent requirement (10 percent of acute care bedrooms being remodeled). The fact that the facility has exceeded the 50 percent requirement for long-term care patient bedrooms, does not allow the facility to provide less than 10 percent of accessible patient bedrooms in acute care. As a result, the facility would then have 7 accessible acute care bedrooms out of 80, still short of the 10 percent requirement. Future remodel projects would continue to be subject to the 10 percent requirement, until the 10 percent acute care standard has been met.

The requirements in Section 11B-223 are based on patient bedrooms, not patient beds. Placing more than one bed in a patient bedroom does not affect the requirements of Section 11B-223.2 or 11B-223.3.

DIVISION 6: PLUMBING ELEMENTS AND FACILITIES

SECTION

11B-604 Water closets and toilet compartments

11B-604.3.2 Overlap. The required clearance around the water closet shall be permitted to overlap the water closet, associated grab bars, dispensers, sanitary napkin disposal units, coat hooks, shelves, accessible routes, clear floor space and clearances required at other fixtures, and the turning space. No other fixtures or obstructions shall be located within the required water closet clearance.

INTERPRETATION

Showers are *fixtures* including a 30 inch x 60 inch clear receptor with a minimum/maximum slope of $\frac{1}{4}$ inch per foot to a drain (refer to CPC Section 408.5 and CBC Section 11B-608.9), and a threshold, between the shower receptor and the fixture clearance provided outside the shower (CBC Section 11B-608.2.2.1) with a maximum height of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (CBC Section 11B-608.7). The required clearance around a water closet may overlap the clearance required outside the shower but not overlap the shower *fixture* threshold or receptor.

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11B-604 Water closets and toilet compartments

11B-604.5 Grab bars.

11B-604.5.2 Rear Wall. The rear wall grab bar shall be 36 inches (914 mm) long minimum and extend from the centerline of the water closet 12 inches (305 mm) minimum on one side and 24 inches (610 mm) minimum on the other side.

Exceptions:

2. Where an administrative authority requires flush controls for flush valves to be located in a position that conflicts with the location of the rear grab bar, then the rear grab bar shall be permitted to be split or shifted to the open side of the toilet area.

INTERPRETATION

CBC Section 1224.14.2.7 requires the provision of a flushing-rim clinical sink in the soiled utility room of a nursing unit. There is an allowance to eliminate the clinical sink if facilities for cleaning bedpans are provided elsewhere. CPC Table 4-2 Footnote 14 allows the clinical sink to be deleted if all bedrooms in the nursing unit are provided with adjoining toilets with bedpan flushing devices.

Patient toilet rooms with bedpan flushing devices are an allowance, not a requirement. If this approach is pursued, the bedpan flushing device shall not be a unit that results in the need to split or offset the rear grab bar. Section 11B-604.5.2 Exception 2 is not available to accommodate bedpan flushing devices. The gripping surface of the grab bar must be available for the entire 36-inch length without interruption.

DIVISION 8: SPECIAL ROOMS, SPACES, AND ELEMENTS

SECTIONS

11B-805 Medical care and long-term care facilities

11B-805.2 Patient bedrooms and resident sleeping rooms. *Patient bedrooms and resident sleeping rooms required to provide mobility features shall comply with Section 11B-805.2*

11B-805.2.4 Toilet and bathing rooms. *Toilet and bathing rooms that are provided as part of patient bedrooms and resident sleeping rooms complying with Section 11B-223.2 or 11B-223.3 shall comply with Section 11B-603. Where provided, one water closet, one lavatory, and one bathtub or shower shall comply with the applicable requirements of Sections 11B-603 through 11B-610.*

INTERPRETATION

Required to provide mobility features means those patient bedrooms intended to meet the requirements of Section 11B-223.2 or 11B-223.3. Accessible patient amenities such as the turning radius, door maneuvering areas, their toilet/bathing room and their wardrobe are dependent upon whether it is an “accessible room” required to provide mobility features, or not. The 18 inch strike-side clearance and 5 feet deep maneuvering clearance are not required at the patient room door in a “non-accessible room,” as one not required to provide mobility features. Handwashing fixtures located in non-accessible rooms must still comply with Section 11B-805.6. These are primarily for staff use. Staff access to both sides of the patient is a functional requirement of Section 1224.14.1.2, and not dependent upon Section 11B-805.4.1.

Patient ***toilet and bathing rooms*** that are accessed from patient bedrooms that are not required to provide mobility features are not subject to the accessibility requirements of Section 11B-805.2.4 or Section 11B-603. Although these rooms are not required to comply with Section 11B-603, CBC Section 1224.4.18 requires that “*each toilet, bathtub and shower serving patients shall have conveniently placed grab bars.*” These non-accessible grab bars are only required to be compliant with Section 11B-609. Also note that patient toilet rooms that are part of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) rooms are not required to comply with Section 11B-603. Section 11B-223.1, Exception states: “Toilet rooms that are part of critical or intensive care patient sleeping rooms shall not be required to comply with *Section 11B-603.*”

Modular (cabinet) toilets allowed under CBC Section 1224.29.1.4 for ICUs are not required to have grab bars. These units are not intended as normal patient toileting facilities but as equipment in support of patient care assessment within an ICU setting.

All doors to patient toilet rooms “*shall be equipped with hardware which will permit the door to swing outward or in a manner to negate the need to push against a patient who may have collapsed within the toilet room*” per CBC Section 1224.4.8.1. The operable parts requirements in Section 11B-309 and the maneuvering clearances and clear space requirements in Section 11B-404.2.4 apply only to the normal use of doors required to be accessible and not to the emergency breakaway function.

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11B-805 Medical care and long-term care facilities

11B-805.4 Examination, diagnostic and treatment rooms. *Examination, diagnostic and treatment rooms shall comply with Section 11B-805.4.*

INTERPRETATION

Examination, diagnostic and treatment rooms refer to all patient care areas and include but are not limited to: exam rooms, treatment rooms, imaging rooms, operating rooms, emergency rooms, post anesthesia recovery rooms/units, dialysis rooms/units, infusion rooms/units, labor/delivery/recovery rooms and observation rooms/units. All *examination, diagnostic and treatment rooms* shall be accessible. Toilet rooms that are accessed from an *examination, diagnostic or treatment room* shall also be accessible. Note that all patient toilet rooms, other than those specifically exempted (i.e. non-accessible patient rooms and ICU patient rooms), must comply with Section 11B-603.

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11B-805 Medical care and long-term care facilities

11B-805.4.1 Beds, exam tables, procedure tables, gurneys and lounge chairs. *A 36-inch (914 mm) minimum wide clear space shall be provided along the full length of each side of beds, exam tables, procedure tables, gurneys and lounge chairs.*

Exception: *General exam rooms in non-emergency settings may provide clear space on only one side of beds, gurneys and exam tables.*

11B-805.4.2 Equipment. *Clear space complying with Section 11B-305.2 shall be provided as required for specific equipment.*

11B-805.4.3 Turning space. *Turning space complying with Section 11B-304 shall be provided within the room.*

INTERPRETATION

All patient care areas must provide access to the area and to the bed, exam table, procedure table, gurney, lounge chair and/or equipment/apparatus associated with the delivery of care, exam, diagnosis or treatment performed in the space. Access includes compliance with Division 4 of Chapter 11B for travel to, and circulation within, the patient care area; and turning space in compliance with Section 11B-304. A minimum of a 36-inch wide access shall be provided to and along each side of the bed, exam table, procedure table, gurney, lounge chair and/or equipment/apparatus. "Each side" includes both sides and the foot, but does not include the head unless the provision of care requires it. Refer to the following examples:

Exam room - *Exam rooms* are required to provide a turning space, accessible handwashing fixture, and 36-inch wide access along the full length of each side and the foot of the exam table. The exception is in reference to general *exam rooms* only. These are restricted to those meeting the definition of *exam room* in CBC Section 1224.3. Specific exam rooms required to be larger than 80 square feet are not considered "general exam rooms" and are not eligible for the exception.

Treatment room - *Treatment rooms* are required to provide a turning space, accessible handwashing fixture, accessible counter and writing surface, and 36-inch wide access along the full length of each side and foot of the treatment table. If the treatment room is intended to accommodate procedures requiring access to the head (e.g. minor surgery, etc.), all four sides of the table require 36-inch wide access.

Equipment - *Exam or treatment rooms* with equipment such as imaging must provide a turning space, accessible handwashing fixture if required, and 36-inch wide access to both sides and the foot of the table. The head of the equipment does not require the 36-inch access if only used for servicing.

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11B-805 Medical care and long-term care facilities

11B-805.6 Handwashing fixtures, lavatories and sinks. *All handwashing fixtures, lavatories and sinks shall comply with Section 11B-606.*

Exception: *Scrub sinks, as defined in California Plumbing Code Section 221.0, shall not be required to comply with Section 11B-606.*

INTERPRETATION

The requirements of Section 11B-606 apply to all lavatories, sinks, and handwashing fixtures for public use, patient use, and employee use, unless otherwise specifically exempted by the code. Lavatories, sinks, and handwashing fixtures are *common use* areas and therefore, require accessibility.

Exceptions:

- Scrub sinks (due to impracticality)
- Specific *workstations* (see Section 11B-203.9). This applies only where the sink is the actual *workstation*.

Example: A sink used exclusively for cleaning endoscopes. The sink is the actual area where work is performed as opposed to a place where the employee cleans up before and after performing work elsewhere in the room.

Knee clearance requirement - All accessibility requirements of Section 11B-606 apply to lavatories, sinks, and handwashing fixtures required to be accessible. Lavatories are subject to Section 11B-306.3.3, Exception 1 which states: *“At lavatories required to be accessible by Section 11B-213.3.4, the knee clearance shall be 27 inches (686 mm) high minimum above the finish floor or ground at a depth of 8 inches (203 mm) minimum increasing to 29 inches (737 mm) high minimum above the finish floor or ground at the front edge of a counter with a built-in lavatory or at the front edge of a wall-mounted lavatory fixture.”*

This requirement applies to all lavatories. “Handwashing fixtures” are special application “sinks” and not subject to the exception. Handwashing fixtures, as sinks, are subject to Section 11B- 306.2.3, Exception 1 which states: *“The toe clearance shall extend 19 inches minimum under sinks required to be accessible by Section 11B-212.3.”*

Consequently, handwashing fixtures must have a minimum depth of 19 inches in order to comply with the minimum toe clearance. They shall also have a minimum knee clearance of 27 inches at the depth and reduction described in Sections 11B-306.3.3 and 11B-306.3.4.

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11B-805 Medical care and long-term care facilities
11B-805.7 Built-in cabinets and work surfaces. *Built-in cabinets, counters and work surfaces shall be accessible, including: patient wardrobes, nurses’ stations, administrative centers, reception desks, medicine preparation areas, laboratory work stations, equipment consoles, clean and soiled utility cabinets, and storage areas; and shall comply with Sections 11B-225 and 11B-902.*

INTERPRETATION

Built-in equipment consoles include recessed or wall mounted Electronic Medical Record (EMR) systems. These units must also comply with US Access Board *Section 508 Standards for Electronic and Information Technology*. A 30-inch by 48-inch clear floor space, in compliance with Section 11B-305, shall be centered in front of the display screen. Wall-mounted units shall comply with protrusion limits prescribed in Section 11B-307.2. Touch screen units shall be allowed to be vertically mounted with the centerline of the display screen no more than 52 inches above the floor in compliance with Section 11B-707.7.1.1. These units will need the capability of an alternate input method such as a wireless keyboard made available to those who would need it.

Original signed _____ 9/9/14
Paul Coleman Date