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Title 44@ Department of Health

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Article 44:73@ Nursing facilities

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Chapter 44:73:02@ Physical environment

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Section 44:73:02:18@ Occupant protection

44_73_02_18 Occupant protection

Each facility shall be constructed, arranged, equipped, maintained, and operated to avoid injury or danger to the occupants. The extent and complexity of occupant protection precautions is determined by the services offered and the physical needs of the residents admitted to the facility. The facility shall take at least the following precautions:

(1)

Develop and implement a written and scheduled preventive maintenance program;

(2)

Provide securely constructed and conveniently located grab bars in all toilet rooms and bathing areas used by residents;

(3)

Provide a call system for each resident bed and in all toilet rooms and bathing facilities routinely used by residents. The call system shall be capable of being easily activated by the resident and must register at a staff station serving the unit. A wireless call system may be used;

(4)

Provide handrails firmly attached to the walls on both sides of all resident corridors;

(5)

Provide grounded or double-insulated electrical equipment or protect the equipment with ground fault circuit interrupters. Ground fault circuit interrupters

shall be provided in wet areas and for outlets within six feet of sinks;

(6)

Install an electrically activated audible alarm on all unattended exit doors. Any other exterior doors shall be locked or alarmed. The alarm shall be audible at a designated staff station and may not automatically silence when the door is closed;

(7)

A portable space heater, portable halogen lamp, household-type electric blanket, or household-type heating pad may not be used in a facility;

(8)

Any light fixture located over a resident bed, in any bathing or treatment area, in a clean supply storage room, in any laundry clean linen storage area, or in any medication set-up area shall be equipped with a lens cover or a shatterproof lamp;

(9)

Any clothes dryer shall have a galvanized metal vent pipe for exhaust; and

(10)

The storage and transfilling of oxygen cylinders or containers shall meet the requirements of the NFPA 99 Standard for Health Care Occupancies, 2012 Edition.