

**§418.110(f) Standard: Patient areas.**

**The hospice must provide a home-like atmosphere and ensure that patient areas are designed to preserve the dignity, comfort, and privacy of patients.**

**(1) The hospice must provide—**

- (i) Physical space for private patient and family visiting;**
- (ii) Accommodations for family members to remain with the patient throughout the night; and**
- (iii) Physical space for family privacy after a patient's death.**

**(2) The hospice must provide the opportunity for patients to receive visitors at any hour, including infants and small children.**

**Interpretive Guidelines §418.110(f)**

A homelike atmosphere de-emphasizes the institutional character of the setting to the extent possible.

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**§418.110(g) Standard: Patient rooms.**

- (1) The hospice must ensure that patient rooms are designed and equipped for nursing care, as well as the dignity, comfort, and privacy of patients.**
- (2) The hospice must accommodate a patient and family request for a single room whenever possible.**
- (3) Each patient's room must—**
  - (i) Be at or above grade level;**
  - (ii) Contain a suitable bed and other appropriate furniture for each patient;**
  - (iii) Have closet space that provides security and privacy for clothing and personal belongings;**
  - (iv) Accommodate no more than two patients and their family members;**
  - (v) Provide at least 80 square feet for each residing patient in a double room and at least 100 square feet for each patient residing in a single room; and**
  - (vi) Be equipped with an easily-activated, functioning device accessible to the patient, that is used for calling for assistance.**
- (4) For a facility occupied by a Medicare-participating hospice on December 2, 2008, CMS may waive the space and occupancy requirements of paragraphs (g)(2)(iv) and (g)(2)(v) of this section if it determines that—**
  - (i) Imposition of the requirements would result in unreasonable hardship on the hospice if strictly enforced; or jeopardize its ability to continue to participate in the Medicare program; and**
  - (ii) The waiver serves the needs of the patient and does not adversely affect their health and safety.**

**Interpretive Guidelines §418.110(g)**

In addition to a clean, comfortable bed, each patient should have at least a place to put personal effects, such as pictures and a clock, furniture suitable for the comfort of the

patient and visitors (i.e., a chair) and adequate lighting suitable to the tasks the patient chooses to perform, or the inpatient staff needs to perform.

Hospices must submit the waiver requests mentioned in this requirement, in writing, to the CMS Location.