

(c) All household and cleaning products in the facility shall be identified, labeled, and securely stored in a cabinet, closet, or room which is inaccessible to patients.

(d) Housekeeping and cleaning supplies shall be selected and approved by the Infection Control Committee. They shall be measured and used correctly according to the manufacturers' written instructions.

(e) All toilets and bathrooms shall be kept clean to sight and touch, in good repair, and free of odors that reflect poor housekeeping practices.

(f) Toilet tissue, soap, and disposable towels or air driers shall be provided in each bathroom at all times. Soap and disposable towels or air driers shall be provided at each handwashing sink at all times.

(g) Reusable hand-cleanser dispensers shall be clean inside and out. Disposable dispensers shall be discarded and not refilled.

(h) Carpeting shall be kept clean and odor-free and shall not be frayed, worn, torn, or buckled.

(i) Window and partitioning curtains and drapes shall be kept clean to sight and touch and odor-free.

(j) Walls, ceilings, and vents shall be kept clean to sight and touch and odor-free.

(k) Windows and screens shall be kept clean to sight and touch and in good repair.

(l) Effective and safe controls shall be used to minimize and eliminate the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin in the facility. The premises shall be kept in such condition as to prevent the breeding, harborage, or feeding of vermin. All openings to the outer air shall be effectively protected against the entrance of insects.

(m) Nonskid wax shall be used on all waxed floors.

(n) All communal toys shall be washed after each use. No stuffed animals shall be allowed except for personal use.

(o) Plants and flowers shall not be allowed in patient treatment areas (such as operating rooms and procedure rooms) or sterile processing areas.

Repeal and New Rule, R.2004 d.299, effective August 2, 2004.
See: 35 N.J.R. 2838(a), 36 N.J.R. 3529(a).
Section was "Patient care environment".

8:43A-17.4 Environmental patient care services

(a) The following environmental conditions shall be met:

1. Thermometers which are accurate to within three degrees Fahrenheit shall be kept in a visible location in refrigerators, freezers, and storerooms used for perishable

and other items subject to deterioration. Records shall be kept for 12 months;

2. Articles in storage shall be elevated from the floor and away from walls, ceilings, and air vents to facilitate cleaning. Storage units shall be non-porous and cleanable;

3. There shall be separate refrigerators for medications, laboratory specimens, and food. There shall be a separate designated area for all food items and beverages. Records shall be kept for 12 months;

4. Draperies, upholstery, and other fabrics or decorations shall be fire-resistant and flameproof;

5. Latex foam pillows shall be prohibited;

6. Equipment requiring drainage shall be drained to a sanitary connection, in accordance with State and local codes;

7. During warm weather conditions, the temperature of the facility shall not exceed 82 degrees Fahrenheit. The facility shall establish a written heat emergency action plan which specifies procedures to be followed in the event that the indoor air temperature is 82 degrees Fahrenheit or higher for a continuous period of four hours or longer. The facility shall provide adequate ventilation in all areas used by patients;

8. The temperature in the facility shall be kept at a minimum of 72 degrees Fahrenheit (22 degrees Celsius) when patients are in the facility;

9. Throw rugs or scatter rugs shall not be used in the facility;

10. All equipment shall have unobstructed space provided for operation;

11. Combustible materials shall not be stored in heater rooms or within 18 feet of any heater located in an open basement;

12. Paints, varnishes, lacquers, thinners, and all other flammable materials shall be stored outside the building. Minimum supplies may be kept in the building in a locked storage room or in closed, locked metal cabinets or containers in a non-patient area of the facility;

13. All furnishings shall be clean and in good repair, and mechanical equipment shall be in good working order. Equipment shall be kept covered to protect from contamination and accessible for cleaning and inspection. Broken or worn items shall be repaired, replaced, or removed promptly;

14. Mattresses, mattress pads and coverings, pillows, bedsprings, and other furnishings shall be properly maintained and kept clean. They shall be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected upon discharge of each patient;

15. All equipment and environmental surfaces shall be kept clean to sight and touch; and

16. When areas of the facility are undergoing renovation or new construction, protective measures shall be taken to contain dust and redirect traffic in patient care areas.

Repeal and New Rule, R.2004 d.299, effective August 2, 2004.
See: 35 N.J.R. 2838(a), 36 N.J.R. 3529(a).
Section was "Waste removal".

8:43A-17.5 Regulated medical waste and solid waste management

(a) Policies and procedures for solid waste and recyclables shall be established and enforced to ensure appropriate collection, storage and disposal and to maintain them clean and odor-free and to prevent the breeding of insects or vermin.

1. Plastic bags shall be used for solid waste removal from patient care units and support departments. Bags shall be of sufficient strength to safely contain waste from point of origin to point of disposal and shall be effectively closed prior to disposal.

2. Outside storage containers for solid waste shall be kept covered, except those used for corrugated cardboard, recyclables, or construction materials.

3. Garbage compactors shall be located on an impervious pad that is graded to a drain. The drain shall be kept clean and shall be connected to the sanitary sewage disposal system.

4. All solid waste that is not regulated medical waste shall still be disposed of in a manner approved by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Disposal shall be as frequent as necessary to avoid creating a nuisance.

5. Indoor storage containers for solid waste shall be fireproof and kept covered when necessary to control odors or other nuisances.

6. Solid waste shall be stored within the containers provided for it in an area that is kept clean. Waste shall be collected from the storage area regularly to prevent nuisances such as odors, flies, other vermin, or rodents,

and so that waste does not overflow or accumulate beyond the capacity of the storage containers.

(b) The facility shall comply with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 13:1E-48.1 et seq., the Comprehensive Regulated Medical Waste Management Act, and all rules promulgated pursuant to the aforementioned act.

(c) All liquid waste shall be collected, stored, and disposed of in accordance with the rules of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Repeal and New Rule, R.2004 d.299, effective August 2, 2004.
See: 35 N.J.R. 2838(a), 36 N.J.R. 3529(a).

Former N.J.A.C. 8:43A-17.5, Water supply, recodified to N.J.A.C. 8:43A-31.1.

8:43A-17.6 (Reserved)

Recodified to N.J.A.C. 8:43A-31.2 by R.2004 d.299, effective August 2, 2004.

See: 35 N.J.R. 2838(a), 36 N.J.R. 3529(a).

SUBCHAPTER 18. QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM

8:43A-18.1 Quality assurance plan

(a) The facility shall establish and implement a written plan for a quality assurance program for patient care. The quality assurance plan shall be reviewed at least annually and revised as necessary. The plan shall specify a timetable and the individual responsible for coordinating the quality assurance program and shall provide for ongoing monitoring of staff and patient care services.

(b) There shall be a multidisciplinary committee responsible for the direction of the quality assurance program. The committee shall include at least representation from the medical staff, nursing staff and administration. The committee shall establish a mechanism to include participation of all disciplines in the identification of areas for review that affect patient care throughout the facility.