



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Pamela Blumgart
pamela@fgiguidelines.org
202-286-3258

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 29, 2016

Public Invited to Comment on the Draft 2018 FGI *Guidelines*

The Facility Guidelines Institute (FGI) invites users of the FGI *Guidelines* to comment on its draft 2018 documents, posted for public review beginning September 29, 2016. Input from the field is critical to revising the *Guidelines* documents, which provide fundamental standards for design and construction of hospitals, outpatient facilities, and residential health, care, and support facilities.

The multidisciplinary, 100-member Health Guidelines Revision Committee (HGRC), the body responsible for the content of the *Guidelines*, revises and updates the text every four years to keep pace with changes in the health care and residential care fields and to clarify the requirements to make compliance easier.

“Although we are only in the middle of revising the FGI *Guidelines* documents, HGRC members have been putting forth a yeoman’s effort to verify the need for existing requirements and validate newly proposed language,” said Douglas Erickson, FASHE, CHFM, CHC, HFDP, chair of the 2018 HGRC. “Now we need users of the *Guidelines* to review the draft documents and provide comments, supportive or constructive, for consideration by the HGRC during the final stages of developing the 2018 documents.”

The 2018 *Guidelines* revision cycle will yield three *Guidelines* documents—for hospitals, for outpatient facilities, and for residential health, care, and support facilities. Therefore, three drafts have been created as well as an electronic comment system for each book. To learn more about the comment period, to access the draft, and to link to the three comment systems, please visit www.fgiguidelines.org/revision-process/2018-revision-cycle/public-comment-period beginning September 29.

The public comment period will close on December 12, 2016. Comments may be made only on proposed changes to the text (deletions, revisions, or new material) in the 2014 FGI *Guidelines for Design and Construction of Hospital and Outpatient Facilities* and *Guidelines for Design and Construction of Residential Health, Care, and Support Facilities*. Following are some of the changes proposed for the 2018 FGI *Guidelines* documents:

Hospitals and Outpatient Facilities

- New guidance on design of telemedicine spaces
- New design requirements for accommodations for care of patients of size
- Clarification of procedure room and operating room requirements: procedure types, facility types, hybrid ORs
- New classification structure based on procedures performed and patient acuity for determining imaging room requirements
- New flexibility in pre- and post-procedure patient care area design requirements
- Two options for sterile processing area design: two required rooms (decontamination and clean) with an exception for a single room for small tabletop sterilizers
- New design requirements for a sexual assault forensic examination room
- Revised mobile/transportable medical unit chapter

Hospitals and Outpatient Facilities (continued)

- Updated acoustics requirements
- Expanded sustainability requirements re: waste minimization, potable water, and energy efficiency
- Revised guidance for emergency preparedness and management (formerly provisions for disasters)

Residential Health, Care, and Support Facilities

- Updated acoustics and lighting requirements
- Updated minimum requirements for grab bar configurations to align with the latest research
- New chapter on settings for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities
- New chapter on long-term residential substance abuse treatment facilities
- New telemedicine section to address the increasing provision of telemedicine services in residential facilities
- Language shift from “bariatric resident” to “person of size” since people who need accommodations include those who are not necessarily obese or receiving treatment for obesity, such as very tall people

Commenters are asked to provide their take on the costs and benefits of any changes to the draft text they submit, using an optional cost/benefit comment box and a required cost/benefit matrix provided in the comment systems. The FGI Cost/Benefit Committee will review all comments and make recommendations to the HGRC.

###

About the Facility Guidelines Institute

Founded in 1998, the Facility Guidelines Institute is a not-for-profit corporation founded to provide leadership and continuity to the *Guidelines* revision process. FGI functions as the coordinating entity for development of the *Guidelines* series of documents using a multidisciplinary, consensus-based process and for provision of ancillary services that encourage and improve their application and use. FGI invests revenue derived from sales of the *Guidelines* to fund research and the activities of the next revision cycle.

About the FGI *Guidelines for Design and Construction Documents*

The FGI *Guidelines for Design and Construction Documents* are updated every four years to keep pace with new concepts, capabilities, and technologies in the delivery of health care. The *Guidelines* documents are used by states to regulate health care facility design and construction, through adoption of the *Guidelines* as code, as a basis for state-written codes, as an adjunct to state codes, or for reference.