

Updated Accreditation Manual: Physical Environment Chapter

Accreditation 360
Hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals

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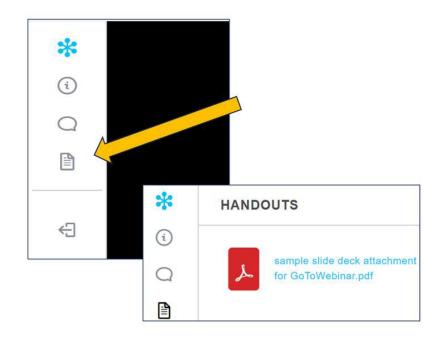
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Participant Learning Objectives



Discuss the rationale for the Physical Environment standards rewrite/reorganization

Define the structure, organization, and requirements of the new Physical Environment chapter

Apply guidance and resources to inform implementation



Disclosure Statement

All staff and subject matter experts have disclosed that they do not have any conflicts of interest. For example, financial arrangements, affiliations with, or ownership of organizations that provide grants, consultancies, honoraria, travel, or other benefits that would impact the presentation of this webinar content.





Content Outline

Physical Environment (PE) Updates

- New Numbering
- New Chapter Locations

Survey Process

- Orientation to Survey Process Guide (SPG)
- SPG Modules
- Compliance Evaluation Tools

Resources to Navigate Revisions

- Disposition Report
- Crosswalk Compare Report

Commonly Identified Opportunities for Improvement



Physical Environment (PE) Updates



Numbering and Location Changes

Current Standard Numbering
EC.01.01.01
EC.02.01.01
EC.02.01.03
EC.02.02.01
EC.02.03.01
EC.02.03.03
EC.02.03.05
EC.02.04.01
EC.02.04.03
EC.02.05.01
EC.02.05.02

Current Standard Numbering
EC.02.05.03
EC.02.05.05
EC.02.05.07
EC.02.05.09
EC.02.06.01
EC.02.06.05
EC.03.01.01
EC.04.01.01
EC.04.01.03
EC.04.01.05

Future Standard Numbering
PE.01.01.01
PE.02.01.01
PE.04.01.01
PE.04.01.03
PE.04.01.05
PE.05.01.01

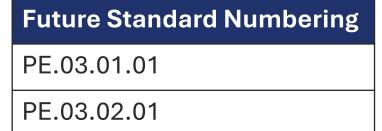
Future Standard Numbering
NPG.02.04.01
NPG.11.01.01
NPG.11.03.01
NPG.13.03.01



Numbering and Location Changes

Current Standard Numbering
LS.01.01
LS.01.02.01
LS.02.01.10
LS.02.01.20
LS.02.01.30
LS.02.01.34
LS.02.01.35
LS.02.01.40
LS.02.01.50
LS.02.01.70
LS.03.01.10
LS.03.01.20

Current Standard Numbering
LS.03.01.30
LS.03.01.34
LS.03.01.35
LS.03.01.40
LS.03.01.50
LS.03.01.70
LS.05.01.10
LS.05.01.20
LS.05.01.30
LS.05.01.34
LS.05.01.35



PE.04.01.01



Concepts in the PE Chapter

Safe, Adequate Environment PE.01.01.01 Hazardous
Materials &
Waste
PE.02.01.01

Comply with Life Safety Code PE.03.01.01

Interim Life
Safety Measures
PE.03.02.01

Building Safety& Facility
Management
PE.04.01.01

Utility Systems PE.04.01.03

Water
Management
PE.04.01.05

Imaging Safety PE.05.01.01



PE Concepts in the NPG Chapter

Workplace
Violence Worksite
Analysis
NPG.02.04.01

Security Risks NPG.11.01.01

Utility Systems
NPG.11.03.01

Imaging Safety NPG.13.03.01



PE Chapter Standard Example

Water Management PE.04.01.05

Standard, EP and HR chapter example

PE.04.01.05, EP 1

The water management program has an individual or a team responsible for the oversight and implementation of the program, including but not limited to development, management, and maintenance activities.



NPG Chapter Standard Example

Workplace
Violence
Training
NPG.02.04.01

Standard, EP and NPG chapter example

NPG.02.04.01, EP 2

As part of its workplace violence prevention program, the hospital provides training, education, and resources (at time of hire, annually, and whenever changes occur regarding the workplace violence prevention program) to leaders, staff, and licensed practitioners...etc.



Notable Changes in the New PE Requirements

Deleted

 Detailed EC standards related to equipment inspection, testing, and maintenance

Deleted

 Detailed LS standards related to health care, ambulatory health care, and business occupancies



Survey Process



Survey Process Guide (SPG) – Overview

- Replaces Survey Activity Guide (SAG)
- Closely follows CMS's interpretive guidelines and survey procedures
- Same version shared between surveyors and accredited organizations



Hospital Accreditation

Survey Process Guide



Survey Process Guide (SPG) – Overview (2)

- Organized into modules based on the CMS CoP structure
- Contains separate module for NPG Chapter
- Includes updated Compliance Evaluation Tools



Hospital Accreditation

Survey Process Guide



Survey Process Remains the Same

Surveyors will continue to conduct the following activities:

- Document Review
- Life Safety Code Building Assessment



Hospital Accreditation

Survey Process Guide



Survey Process Guidance - Modules

Hospital Physical Environment Evaluation Module (482.41)

Joint Commission Standards / EPs	Hospital CoP	Hospital Survey Process
PE.01.01.01, EP 1: The hospital's building is constructed, arranged, and maintained to allow safe access and to protect the safety and well-being of patients. Note 1: Diagnostic and therapeutic facilities are located in areas appropriate for the services provided. Note 2: When planning for new, altered, or renovated space, the hospital uses state rules and regulations, or the current Guidelines for Design and Construction of Hospitals published by the Facility Guidelines Institute. If the state rules and regulations or the Guidelines do not address the design needs of the hospital, then it uses other reputable standards and guidelines that provide equivalent design criteria.	§482.41 Condition of Participation: Physical Environment The hospital must be constructed, arranged, and maintained to ensure the safety of the patient, and to provide facilities for diagnosis and treatment and for special hospital services appropriate to the needs of the community.	Observation: Verify that all locations of the hospital, including all campuses, satellites, provider-based activities, and inpatient and outpatient locations meet this CoP.

New Standard/EP

CoP

Survey Process Guidance (Interview, Document Review, Observation)



Survey Process Guidance - Modules (2)

Hospital Radiologic Services Evaluation Module (482.26)

PE.02.01.01, EP 4: The hospital develops and implements policies and procedures to protect patients and staff from exposure to hazardous materials. The policies and procedures address the following:

§482.26(b) Standard: Safety for Patients and Personnel

The radiologic services, particularly ionizing radiology procedures, must be free from hazards for patients and personnel.

Interview

- Radiologic services staff to determine:
 - Familiarity with policies and procedures related to safety in general and to specific clinical protocols.
 - Training at appropriate intervals to on

Hospital Nuclear Medicine Services Evaluation Module (482.53)

the Joint Commission for deemed status purposes: If the hospital provides nuclear medicine services, and nuclear medicine staff perform laboratory tests, the services meet the applicable requirements for laboratory services specified in 42 CFR 482.27.

MM.15.01.01, EP 7: For hospitals that use Joint Commission accreditation for deemed status purposes: An appropriately trained registered pharmacist or doctor of medicine or osteopathy performs or supervises inhouse preparation of radiopharmaceuticals.

PE.02.01.01. EP 4: The hospital develops and implements policies and procedures to protect patients and staff from exposure to

§482.53(b) Standard: Delivery of Service

Radioactive materials must be prepared, labeled, used, transported, stored, and disposed of in accordance with acceptable standards of practice.

§482.53(b)(1) In-house preparation of radiopharmaceuticals is by, or under the supervision of, an appropriately trained registered pharmacist or a doctor of medicine or osteopathy.

§482.53(b)(2) There is proper storage and disposal of radioactive material.

Interview

- Ask the hospital to demonstrate how it limits access to radioactive materials at all times.
- Determine if staff use their dosimeters according to manufacturer's instructions, particularly in the appropriate placement of the dosimeter on the body, as indicated on the dosimeter.
- Ask responsible staff to demonstrate how they ensure the safe transport of radioactive materials in the hospital.
- Ask responsible staff to determine whether the appropriate container for protection devices (for example, lead for gamma emitters) are being used for storage and administration of radioactive materials.
- Ask staff to show the policy for disposal methods for radioactive waste or unused material and to explain how they ensure that these procedures are followed.
- If radiopharmaceuticals are prepared in-house, determine that the preparation is performed by, or supervised by, a registered pharmacist or MD/DO.
- Ask the supervising pharmacist or MD/DO how technicians



Compliance Evaluation Tools

- Compliance Evaluation Tools:
 - CMS K-Tag tools for ambulatory and health care occupancies
 - Kitchen Tracer Survey Tool
 - Fire Drill Matrix
 - Document List and Review Tool

Health Care Occupancy LSC and HCFC Evaluation Tool

The Health Care Occupancy LSC and HCFC Evaluation Tool reflects the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) K-tag Safety Code and NFPA 99 Health Care Facilities Code requirements that are evaluated for compliance to determine if hospital Conditions of Participation. Hospitals and critical access hospitals and surveyors must refer to the tool for the content of Code appear in individual elements of performance under the new, streamlined Joint Commission Physical Environment (PE) stand

The tool will assist both organizations and surveyors in identifying the hospital and critical access hospital Conditions of Partic

K-tag Code
SECTION 1 - GENEI
K100 Gener
Any LS
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requirements that rel

Hospital Physical Environment Document List & Review Tool

Revised - Effective: 4/20/2024

The following pages present documentation required by the Hospital Accreditation program Physical Environment (PE) standards. To of these documents soon after arrival for the on-site survey. Surveyors may request other documents, as needed, throughout the surveyors of performance that do not require documentation but appear as reminders to both organizations and surveyors of these of these of the performance that do not require documentation but appear as reminders to both organizations and surveyors of these of these of the performance that do not require documentation but appear as reminders to both organizations and surveyors of these of the performance that do not require documentation but appear as reminders to both organizations and surveyors of these of the performance that do not require documentation but appear as reminders to both organizations and surveyors of these of the performance that do not require documentation but appear as reminders to both organizations and surveyors of these of the performance that do not require documentation but appear as reminders to both organizations and surveyors of these of the performance that do not require documentation but appear as reminders to both organizations and surveyors of these organizations are performance that the performance that

Please conduct during Facility Orientation.

Legend: C=Compliant; NC=Not compliant; NA=Not applicable; IOU=Surveyor awaiting documentation

STANDARD -	See Legend			Document / Requirement		No	
EPs	C	NC	NA	IOU		Yes	NO
PE.03.01.01			Buildings serving patients comply w/ NFPA 101 (2012)				
				Current and accurate drawings w/ fire safety features & related square			
	footage			footage			



Resources



Pre-Publication Webpage Resources

https://www.jointcommission.org/en-us/standards/prepublication-standards/critical-access-hospital-and-hospital-requirements-streamlined-to-reduce-burden

Accreditation Requirements

These documents contain all requirements for the accreditation programs, along regulations displayed below the EP.

- Accreditation Requirements for Critical Access Hospitals
- Accreditation Requirements for Hospitals

Crosswalks

These documents display the CoPs for each deemed program and the equivalent

- Critical Access Hospital Crosswalk
- Critical Access Hospital DPU Crosswalk
- Hospital Crosswalk
- Psychiatric Hospital Crosswalk

Survey Process Guides (SPGs)

These guides replace the Survey Activity Guides previously used. This guide will be used by both organizations and surveyors. The SPGs closely follow CMS's interpretive guidelines and survey procedures, providing a direct correlation between the survey process and the associated EPs and CoPs.

- SPG for Critical Access Hospitals
- SPG for Hospitals

Disposition Reports

These documents contain information regarding where concepts have moved from their previous EP location to

urred (such as

Crosswalk Compare Reports

These documents display the CoPs for each deemed program, the previous equivalent Joint Commission EPs, and the revised equivalent Joint Commission EPs.

- Critical Access Hospital Crosswalk Compare
- Critical Access Hospital DPU Crosswalk Compare
- Hospital Crosswalk Compare



Tracking Revisions: Disposition Report

Standard/EP	EP Text	Disposition	New Standard/EP	New EP Text
EC.02.02.01, EP 18	For hospitals that use Joint Commission accreditation for deemed status purposes:	Moved and Revised	PE.02.01.01, EP 5	Radiation workers are checked periodically, using exposure meters or badge tests,
	Radiation workers are checked periodically, by the use of exposure meters or badge			for the amount of radiation exposure.
	tests, for the amount of radiation exposure.			
				CoPs: §482.26(b)(3)
	CoPs: §482.26(b)(3)			
EC.02.02.01, EP 19	The hospital has procedures for the proper routine storage and prompt disposal of	Moved	PE.02.01.01, EP 6	The hospital has procedures for the proper routine storage and prompt disposal of
	trash and regulated medical waste.			trash and regulated medical waste.
	CoPs: §482.41(b)(4)			CoPs: §482.41(b)(4)



Current Standard/EP

Examples of Disposition:

- Moved/Revised
- Split or Consolidated
- Deleted EP/Replaced w/more Direct EP/Moved to Guidance within SPG

New Standard/EP



Current State to Future State Organized by CoP

Crosswalk Compare Reports

These documents display the CoPs for each deemed program, the previous equivalent Joint Commission EPs, and the revised equivalent Joint Commission EPs.

- Critical Access Hospital Crosswalk Compare
- Critical Access Hospital DPU Crosswalk Compare
- Hospital Crosswalk Compare
- Psychiatric Hospital Crosswalk Compare

Prepublication standards: effective January 1, 2026



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Current State Compared to Future State

Hospital Crosswalk - Current State Compared to Future State

CoP Requirement	CoP Text	Current EP Mapping	Future EP Mapping
§482.41(b)	§482.41(b) Standard: Life Safety from Fire	EC.02.03.01, EP 1	PE.03.01.01, EP 3
	The hospital must ensure that the life safety	The hospital minimizes the potential for harm from fire,	The hospital meets the applicable provisions of the Life Safety
	from fire requirements are met.	smoke, and other products of combustion.	Code (NFPA 101-2012 and Tentative Interim Amendments [TIA] 12-
			1, 12-2, 12-3, and 12-4).
		EC.02.03.01, EP 4	Note 1: Outpatient surgical departments meet the provisions
		The hospital maintains free and unobstructed access to	applicable to ambulatory health care occupancies, regardless of
		all exits.	the number of patients served.
		Note: This requirement applies to all buildings classified	Note 2: For hospitals that use Joint Commission accreditation for
		as business occupancy. The "Life Safety" (LS) chapter	deemed status purposes: The provisions of the Life Safety Code do
		addresses the requirements for all other occupancy	not apply in a state where the Centers for Medicare & Description (
		types.	Medicaid Services (CMS) finds that a fire and safety code imposed
			by state law adequately protects patients in hospitals.

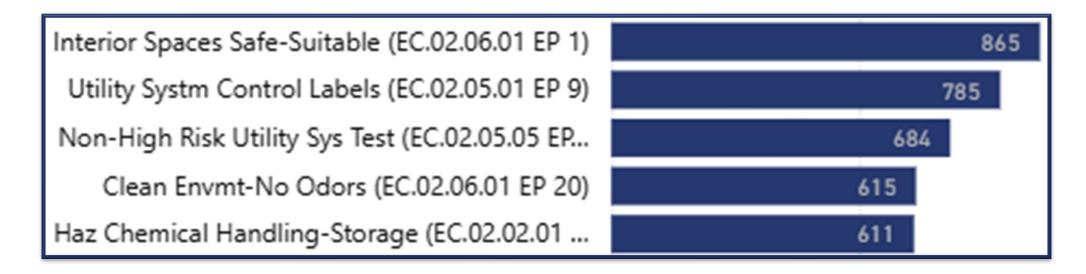


Commonly Identified Opportunities for Improvement

Physical Environment (PE)



Top 5 EC Opportunities – Hospital



Data from 05/01/2024 - 05/31/2025

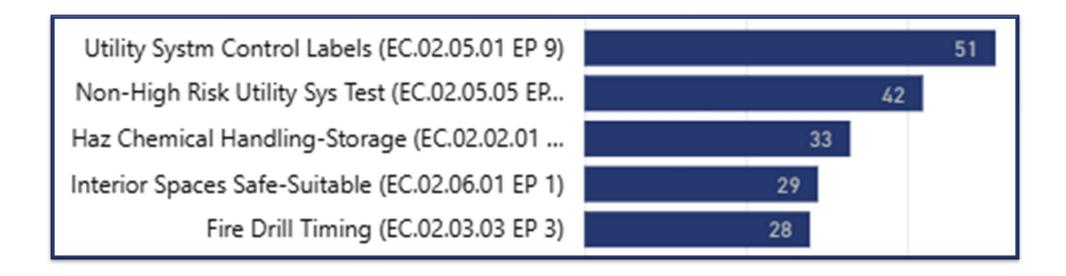


New Standard Location – Hospital

Current Standard/EP – 2025	New Standard/EP- January 2026
Interior Space Safe-Suitable EC.02.06.01 EP 1	Interior Space Safe-Suitable PE.01.01.01 EP 1, EP 2
Utility System Control Labels EC.02.05.01 EP 9	Health Care Facilities Code PE.04.01.01, EP 1
Non-High Risk Utility System Test EC.02.05.05 EP 6	Maintenance of Essential Equipment PE.04.01.01, EP 2
Clean Environment-No Odors EC.02.06.01 EP 20	Clean Environment PE.01.01.01 EP 3
Haz Chemical Handling-Storage EC.02.02.01 EP 5	Haz Chemical Handling-Storage PE.02.01.01 EP 4



Top 5 EC Opportunities – Critical Access Hospital



Data from 05/01/2024 - 05/31/2025



New Standard Location – Critical Access Hospital

Current Standard/EP – 2025	New Standard/EP – January 2026
Utility System Control Labels EC.02.05.01 EP 9	Health Care Facilities Code PE.04.01.01, EP 1
Non-Hish Risk Utility Sys Test EC.02.05.05 EP 6	Maintenance of Essential Equipment PE.04.01.01, EP 2
Hazardous Chemical Handling- Storage EC.02.02.01 EP 5	Hazardous Chemical Handling-Storage PE.02.01.01 EP 4
Interior Spaces Safe-Suitable EC.02.06.01 EP 1	Interior Space Safe-Suitable PE.01.01.01 EP 1, EP 2
Fire Drill Timing EC.02.03.03 EP 3	Life Safety Code PE.03.01.01, EP 3



Top 5 LS Opportunities – Hospital



Data from 05/01/2024 - 05/31/2025



New Standard Location - Hospital

Current Standard/EP – 2025	New Standard/EP – January 2026
Dedicated Sprinkler Piping	Life Safety Code
LS.02.01.35 EP 4	PE.03.01.01 EP 3
NFPA Automatic Extinguishing	Life Safety Code
LS.02.01.35 EP 14	PE.03.01.01 EP 3
Fire Barrier Penetration Seal	Life Safety Code
LS.02.01.10 EP 14	PE.03.01.01 EP 3
Sprinkler Maintenance	Life Safety Code
LS.02.01.35 EP 5	PE.03.01.01 EP 3
Fire Rated Door Requirements	Life Safety Code
LS.02.01.10 EP 11	PE.03.01.01 EP 3



Top 5 LS Opportunities – Critical Access Hospital



Data from 05/01/2024 - 05/31/2025



New Standard Location – Critical Access Hospital

Current Scoring Location – 2025	New Scoring Location – January 2026
Dedicated Sprinkler Piping LS.02.01.35 EP 4	Life Safety Code PE.03.01.01 EP 3
NFPA Auto Extinguish LS.02.01.35 EP 14	Life Safety Code PE.03.01.01 EP 3
Fire Barrier Penetration Seal LS.02.01.10 EP 14	Life Safety Code PE.03.01.01 EP 3
Ceiling Membrane Integrity LS.02.01.34 EP 9	Life Safety Code PE.03.01.01 EP 3
Fire Rated Door Requirements LS.02.01.10 EP 11	Life Safety Code PE.03.01.01 EP 3



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Pioneers in Quality General Sessions provide information such as measurement requirements, changes in reporting, opportunities for engagement and/or recognition, and insights regarding data analysis of national clinical quality measurement data received. This generalized content is meant as education for hospitals and health systems to assist them in meeting current and future requirements.

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Expert to Expert Webinar Series provides a deep-dive into measure intent, logic, and other clinical/technical aspects of electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs) to assist hospitals and health systems in their efforts to improve eCQM data use for quality improvement. This series incorporates expertise from Joint Commission and other key stakeholders.

...

Joint Commission produces a series of on-demand educational video shorts about electronic Clinical Quality Measures (eCQMs). Episodes are approximately 2-3 minutes in length and offer an engaging and contemporary approach to teach these complex and comprehensive topics. The eCQM video shorts lead the viewer to understand application of eCQM resources, eCQM constructs and Logic expression language concepts (CQL, FHIR).





Measure-Specific Webinars

Continuous Customer



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