



NEWS RELEASE
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Public Comment Period Opens for Draft 2026 FGI Codes FGI Announces Title and Content Changes

FLORENCE, MA – Facility Guidelines Institute (FGI) announces that today marks the opening of the three-month public comment period for the draft 2026 FGI documents for design and construction of hospitals; outpatient facilities; and residential health, care, and support facilities. Additionally, FGI announces that the 2026 edition of the *Guidelines for Design and Construction* documents will be renamed the *FGI Facility Code*.

In a significant departure from previous editions, the draft 2026 *FGI Facility Code* documents will no longer contain advisory guidance. Moving forward, text that formerly was included in the appendices will appear in a new series of handbooks that will be released concurrently with the 2026 *FGI Facility Code*. The handbooks will feature expanded guidance, including best practices, checklists, and diagrams created in collaboration with subject-matter experts.

“There continues to be confusion between the mandatory requirements and advisory language in the current editions of the documents,” says FGI CEO Heather Livingston. “Separating the two types of content brings a clear distinction to users. The clear separation of code requirement from guidance, coupled with expanded information in the handbooks, will strengthen understanding and application of the requirements in the FGI documents.”

The *FGI Facility Code* public comment site is accessible at <https://www.fgiguidelines.net>. The public comment period is open to all users of the *FGI Facility Code* documents, and all revisions to the documents are available for public review. Only recommendations, comments, or opinions to change language that has been approved for addition, revision, or deletion will be considered during this phase of the revision cycle; new proposals for changes will not be considered. The public comment period closes on September 30, 2024.

“Public participation in the revision process is vital to keep the *FGI Facility Code* current with practices in the field,” says John Williams, chair of the 2026 Health Guidelines Revision Committee (HGRC). “This is the point where all proposed changes can be reviewed and scrutinized, and the results of these comments can have an incredible influence on public health and safety.”

The multidisciplinary, 135-member HGRC, the body responsible for updating the content of the *FGI Facility Code*, has approved revisions in the draft documents to reflect changes in the health and residential care industries and provide clarifications that can ease adoption and compliance. Following are some of the changes proposed for the 2026 *FGI Facility Code* documents:

Revisions affecting more than one document in the 2026 *FGI Facility Code* draft:

- Requirements for determining the number and types of clinical rooms (e.g., exam, procedure, operating, imaging)
- Revision of tables to determine clinical room requirements for hospitals and outpatient settings

- New requirements to minimize water age
- Elimination of requirements for low-level, diagnostic-only mobile units
- Distinguishing site requirements from mobile unit requirements

Revisions in *FGI Facility Code for Hospitals*

- New title: *FGI Facility Code for Hospitals*
- Adaptation of the critical access hospital chapter to include the new CMS designation for rural emergency hospitals
- New requirements for emergency entrance signage and site directional signage to the emergency department
- Additional requirements for surfaces and casework
- New unit type for medically acute behavioral and mental health patients
- Addition of safe spaces for post-acute patients waiting for transportation or transfer
- Removal of the parent/infant NICU room if NICU contains at least one single-family room

Revisions in *FGI Facility Code for Outpatient Settings*

- New title: *FGI Facility Code for Outpatient Settings*
- New chapter added for sleep disorder clinics
- New chapter added for short stay centers
- Relocated behavioral and mental health crisis centers from the freestanding emergency department chapter to its own chapter
- Clarified that spaces for clean supplies can be either rooms or areas when supported by the functional program and ICRA

Revisions in *FGI Facility Code for Residential Care and Support Settings*

- New title: *FGI Facility Code for Residential Care and Support Settings*
- Added provisions for dedicated visitation spaces
- Strengthened requirements for clearances around toilets where permitted by accessibility standards
- Clarified minimum requirements for electrical outlets, call devices, and medical gas and vacuum systems
- Added requirement for single-resident rooms in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, long-term residential substance abuse treatment facilities, and settings for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.
- Created new table that identifies the primary characteristics of residential setting types to replace the setting characteristics tables previously in the appendix
- Expanded dialysis requirements and plumbing requirements for hemodialysis water distribution
- Increased minimum size requirements for rooms accommodating the care of individuals of size
- Removed Independent Living chapter
- Added new chapter for residential behavioral and mental health treatment facilities
- Revised dining area requirements to accommodate 100 percent of the resident population and increase minimum square footage and dimensions

Once the public comment period closes, opinions and comments will be reviewed and voted on by the HGRC. Revisions approved by the HGRC will appear in the 2026 *FGI Facility Code*, scheduled for release in early 2026. The complete drafts can be found at <https://fgiguideelines.org>.

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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/FGI Facility Code* revision process. FGI functions as the coordinating entity for development of the *Guidelines/FGI Facility Code* documents using a multidisciplinary, consensus-based process and for provision of ancillary services that encourage and improve their application and use.

About the FGI *Guidelines for Design and Construction/FGI Facility Code* Documents

The FGI *Guidelines for Design and Construction/FGI Facility Code* documents are updated every four years to keep pace with new concepts, capabilities, and technologies in the delivery of health care. The *Guidelines/FGI Facility Code* documents are used by states, through adoption by reference, to regulate health and residential care facility design and construction. FGI relies on revenue from sales of the documents to fund research and the activities of the HGRC for the next revision cycle. The *Guidelines/FGI Facility Code* documents are protected by copyright and authorized licenses and paperbacks are available exclusively at <https://shop.fgiguideines.org>.