

About This Document

In 2014, for the first time, the Facility Guidelines Institute published two *Guidelines for Design and Construction (Guidelines)* standards, separating the requirements for hospitals and outpatient facilities from those for long-term residential care—nursing homes and hospice facilities, assisted living facilities and independent living settings, and non-residential support facilities (adult day care facilities, wellness centers, and outpatient rehabilitation centers). The new *Guidelines for Design and Construction of Residential Health, Care, and Support Facilities* will be updated in future editions to keep pace with evolving care models, facility types, and requests for up-to-date guidance from care providers, designers, and regulators. When possible, the *Guidelines* standards are performance-oriented for desired results. Prescriptive measurements, when given, have been carefully considered relative to generally recognized standards and research. For example, the resident safety risk assessment concept was developed by a collaborative team, including the Center for Health Design and members of the Health Guidelines Revision Committee (HGRC) and the HGRC Specialty Subgroup on Residential Facilities, using an evidence-based approach to this key planning and programming component.

Guidelines Development

A specialty subgroup of more than 40 volunteer industry experts came together as part of the 2014 *Guidelines* revision cycle to update, improve, and create the new design *Guidelines* for residential care communities. The ultimate goal was to provide the framework for physical environments that support positive resident and staff outcomes and respond to the national movement to integrate person-centered practice and the built environment. The evolution of communities focused on the person-centered values of choice, dignity, respect, self-determination, and purposeful living has begun to transform services for seniors and others who need long-term care in the United

States. This change in approach has significant implications for the design and construction of the residential communities where those services are delivered.

A person-centered culture requires the creation of built environments for both long- and short-term living, including community-based settings that allow both residents and their caregivers to express choice and practice self-determination in meaningful ways at every level of daily life. Often, an unintended barrier to creating positive person-centered care models in long-term care settings is outdated and obsolete regulations and licensing. This is one of the reasons for developing the new *Guidelines for Design and Construction of Residential Health, Care, and Support Facilities*, which provides minimum design requirements and additional recommendations for design of these facilities. The goal is to provide a set of guidelines that will streamline the design portion of the licensing process for long-term care settings, help authorities having jurisdiction evaluate design documentation, provide consistency between states, and improve resident care environments and outcomes around the country.