

#### **10A NCAC 13F .1304 SPECIAL CARE UNIT BUILDING REQUIREMENTS**

In addition to meeting all applicable building codes and licensure regulations for adult care homes, the special care unit shall meet the following building requirements:

- (1) Plans for new or renovated construction or conversion of existing building areas shall be submitted to the Construction Section of the Division of Health Service Regulation for review and approval.
- (2) If the special care unit is a portion of a facility, it shall be separated from the rest of the building by closed doors.
- (3) Unit exit doors may be locked only if the locking devices meet the requirements outlined in the N.C. State Building Code for special locking devices.
- (4) Where exit doors are not locked, a system of security monitoring shall be provided.
- (5) The unit shall be located so that other residents, staff and visitors do not have to routinely pass through the unit to reach other areas of the building.
- (6) At a minimum the following service and storage areas shall be provided within the special care unit: staff work area, nourishment station for the preparation and provision of snacks, lockable space for medication storage, and storage area for the residents' records.
- (7) Living and dining space shall be provided within the unit at a total rate of 30 square feet per resident and may be used as an activity area.
- (8) Direct access from the facility to a secured outside area shall be provided.
- (9) A toilet and hand lavatory shall be provided within the unit for every five residents.
- (10) A tub and shower for bathing of residents shall be provided within the unit.
- (11) Use of potentially distracting mechanical noises such as loud ice machines, window air conditioners, intercoms and alarm systems shall be minimized or avoided.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 131D-2.16; 131D-4.5; 131D-4.6; 131D-8; 143B-165;  
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