

## Chapter H 26

## MATERNITY HOSPITALS AND HOMES

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**H 26.01 New construction.** The design and construction of all new buildings and structures, including additions to existing buildings and structures, shall comply with all applicable state and local code requirements and these rules and regulations of the state board of health.

**H 26.02 Conversion of existing buildings.** When an existing building, not being used for maternity hospital purposes, is to be used or converted for maternity purposes, it shall be made to comply with the requirements for new buildings and structures as provided in these rules and regulations and orders of the industrial commission.

**H 26.03 Conformance of existing facilities.** All existing maternity hospitals and homes shall comply with the orders of the industrial commission and the rules and regulations of the state board of health pertaining to maintenance, safety, fire protection, operation and equipment.

**H 26.04 Plans and specifications—recommendation.** It is recommended that plans and specifications for new construction, additions, or remodeling be submitted to the state board of health for review and approval.

*(Note: Plans and specifications shall be submitted to the industrial commission in accordance with the Wisconsin state building code.)*

**H 26.05 Appeal to board.** Any person who considers any part or any official's interpretation of these rules and regulations to be unreasonable may appeal to the state board of health to interpret, modify or suspend the same.

### Physical Plant

**H 26.10 Fire-resistiveness.\*** All buildings of two or more stories shall be of fire-resistive construction as specified in the Wisconsin state building code, order no. 5100.

**H 26.11 Fire-resistive enclosures.\*** All boiler and furnace rooms, including fuel rooms and breeching, all laundries, drying rooms, carpenter shops, paint shops and other hazardous work rooms and storage rooms, shall be enclosed with four-hour fire-resistive enclosures and all openings shall be protected by equivalent self-closing fire doors.

**H 26.12 Minimum exit requirement.** There shall be at least two building exits accessible from each room, except that in fire-resistive buildings a total area of not more than 1200 square feet may be placed between an exit and the end of a building.

**H 26.13 Distance—room entrance to exit.** The entrance to each room in a nonfire-resistive building shall not be more than 50 feet from an exit measuring along public passageways. In a fire-resistive building this distance shall not exceed 75 feet.

**H 26.14 Exit lights.** Standard exit lights shall be provided at all exits.

**H 26.15 Vertical openings and shaftways, 2 stories or more—recommendation.** It is recommended that every vertical opening and shaftway in buildings two stories or more in height be enclosed with two-hour fire-resistive partitions, and provided with self-closing doors of equivalent two-hour resistive construction.

\*Mandatory for new and recommended for existing maternity hospitals and homes.

**H 26.16 Automatic sprinkler heads.** Linen chutes and trash chutes shall be provided with automatic fusible link actuated sprinkler heads located at the top of the shafts.

**H 26.17 Vertical openings and shaftways, one-story—recommendation.** It is recommended that all vertical openings and shaftways in one-story buildings with basements be of one-hour fire-resistive construction and provided with self-closing doors of equivalent fire protection.

**H 26.18 Stairways.\*** Stairways shall be at least 3 feet 8 inches in width and shall be equipped with handrails. Treads shall be at least 9½ inches and risers shall not exceed 7¼ inches. Wherever a door opens onto a stairway, a platform shall be provided extending at least the full width of the door in the direction of travel. Every platform shall be at least as wide as the stairway. No winders shall be used.

*(Note: Outside stairs or fire escapes are not approved for new hospital structures. They are, at best, expedients formerly permitted to remedy deficiencies in the exit capacity of existing buildings. For further details refer to Wisconsin state building code.*

**H 26.19 Prearranged plan—fire control.** There shall be a prearranged plan approved by the local fire authorities for training and alerting all personnel to aid in controlling incipient fires and evacuating all patients and personnel.

**H 26.20 Fire alarm system.** Every building accommodating 20 or more patients shall have a proper electrically supervised, code ringing type of alarm system. The alarm sending stations shall be readily available to all portions of the premises. The system shall sound an audible alarm in the central control station, the engineer's office, the administrator's office and other locations where audible alarms will not disturb or create panic among patients and employes. Distinct visual or audible alarms shall be installed at each nurses' station.

**H 26.21 Stand pipes and hose.** Standard first aid stand pipes and hose shall be provided in accordance with the Wisconsin state building code, order 5721.

**H 26.22 Fire extinguishers.** A small standard portable fire extinguisher that can be readily carried and placed in immediate operation by hospital personnel shall be placed on each floor near each stairway and each elevator or group of elevators.

**H 26.23 Special duty fire extinguishers.** Additional appropriate special duty fire extinguishers shall be provided in areas such as kitchens, laundries, paint shops, delivery suites and laboratories.

**H 26.24 Inspection of fire protection equipment.** All fire protection equipment shall be inspected periodically and maintained in readily usable condition.

*(Note: For further details refer to Wisconsin state building code.)*

**H 26.25 Doorways—minimum width.\*** Doorways for all bedrooms, treatment rooms, delivery rooms, labor rooms and solaria shall be at least 3 feet 8 inches in width, preferably 3 feet 10 inches.

\*Mandatory for new and recommended for existing maternity hospitals and homes.

**H 26.26 Doors—direction of swing.\*** Patient room doors shall not swing into the corridor.

**H 26.27 Doors—toilet room.\*** Small private toilet rooms adjoining patient bedrooms shall have the door opening into the bedroom.

**H 26.28 Doors—building exit.** Building exit doors shall swing outward, have fastenings that can be opened from the inside without using a key, and shall be at least 6 feet 4 inches high and 3 feet 4 inches wide.

(Note: It is recommended that all exit doors be at least 3 feet 8 inches wide.)

**H 26.29 Windows.** The outside windows in every sleeping or living room shall have a total sash area of at least one-tenth of the floor area of the room but no less than 12 square feet in accordance with order 5719 of the Wisconsin state building code.

**H 26.30 Corridors.** Corridor widths of at least 7 feet shall be required in patient areas of all buildings accommodating 20 or more patients. A minimum of 5 feet shall be required (7 feet is recommended for all buildings). The corridors referred to herein are those in patient sections and in other areas where patients may be transported by beds or wheeled stretchers. The corridors shall be kept clear and unobstructed at all times in accordance with the industrial commission exit requirements.

**H 26.31 Passenger elevators.\*** At least one elevator shall be provided where patients are located on one or more floors above the first floor or where the operating or delivery rooms are above the first floor. The platform size of the patient elevators shall be at least 5 feet 4 inches by 8 feet and the door opening shall equal or exceed 3 feet 10 inches. Additional service elevators need not meet the minimum size requirements. It is recommended that two elevators be provided in hospitals having 60 to 200 patients above the first floor and that three elevators be provided in institutions having 200 to 350 patients above the first floor. Properly located service elevators meeting the minimum cab and door size requirements may be substituted for the additional patient elevators.

**H 26.32 Freight elevators—recommendation.** It is recommended that a ramp, chute or preferably a supply elevator be provided where bulky or heavy stores and supplies must be transported vertically.

**H 26.33 Ceiling heights—recommendation.** It is recommended that ceiling heights meet the following minimum requirements:

Bedroom	-----	9 feet
Kitchen	-----	10 feet
Laundry	-----	11 feet

**H 26.34 Materials for ceilings—recommendation.** It is recommended that incombustible acoustical ceilings be provided in corridors of the patient areas, nurses' stations, labor rooms, utility rooms, floor pantries, kitchens and nurseries.

**H 26.35 Ceiling repair.** Ceilings in kitchens or other food preparation and storage rooms shall be kept in good repair and shall be finished in a light color.

**H 26.36 Walls—delivery suite.** Delivery and labor rooms shall have walls of smooth washable surfaces.

(Note: Tile surfaces are preferred but Keene's or Portland cement plaster may be used. Ordinary gypsum plaster is not recommended.)

**H 26.37 Walls—service rooms.** Kitchens, utility rooms, baths, janitors' closets, sterilizing rooms and spaces with sinks shall have smooth washable wall surfaces up to the splash or spray levels and shall be kept in good repair.

**H 26.38 Floors—patient rooms.** Patient room floors including coves and baseboards shall be smooth and easily cleaned.

**H 26.39 Floors—service rooms.\*** Kitchens, toilets, baths, utility rooms or similar rooms shall have smooth waterproof, wear-resistant surfaces, such as terrazzo, tile or equivalent. Asphalt and rubber tile are not permitted in these areas.

**H 26.40 Conductive flooring.\*** Conductive flooring meeting the requirements of the National Fire Protection Association, bulletin no. 56, shall be provided for delivery rooms, for anesthetic storage rooms, and for corridors immediately serving and rooms communicating with areas where anesthetics are used.

**H 26.41 Floor level—sleeping rooms.** The floors of all patient rooms and all other living or sleeping rooms shall not be located below the level of the adjoining street, alley or court grade in order to prohibit the use of basements for sleeping rooms in conformity with the requirements of order 5718 of the state building code.

**H 26.42 Ventilation—codes.** Ventilation shall conform to the requirements of the Wisconsin industrial commission heating, ventilating and air conditioning code.

**H 26.43 Mechanical ventilation—recommendation.** Mechanical ventilation which introduces fresh heated humidified air to maintain a room temperature of 75 degrees and humidity of 55 per cent is recommended in delivery rooms and nurseries.

**H 26.44 Toilet room ventilation.** Every toilet room having more than one fixture (closets and urinals) and all interior toilet rooms shall be ventilated by systems separate from all other services and systems in the building.

**H 26.45 Minimum ventilation capacity—recommendation.** Where mechanical ventilation is provided, it is recommended that the following minimum capacity requirements for various rooms be met:

Delivery room	---	8 changes per hour	-----	No recirculation is permitted
Nursery	-----	8 changes per hour	-----	No recirculation from other than nursery areas

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Laundry -----	10 changes per hour
Kitchen	} ----- 4 cubic feet per minute per square foot floor area
Combustible	
Anesthesia	
Toilet rooms -----	2 cubic feet per minute per square foot floor area
Storage rooms ---	2 changes per hour
Other occupied interior rooms -	6 changes per hour

**H 26.46 Approved heating.** The building shall be heated by hot water, steam or an equivalent type of heating system.

(*Note:* A mechanically circulated hot water system is recommended. Hot air heating is not approved. Unit heaters which supply outside air shall be connected to a steam supply to prevent freezing.)

**H 26.47 Temperature.** The heating system shall be capable of maintaining satisfactory and substantially uniform temperatures. It is recommended that the heating system be thermostatically controlled in one or more zones.

**H 26.48 Boiler capacity.** Boilers shall have the necessary capacity when operating at normal rate to supply the heating system, hot water and steam requirements for sterilizers, laundry and kitchen.

**H 26.49 Standby boiler—recommendation.** A standby boiler is recommended to provide a spare and permit operation of smaller units during off peak seasons. When a standby boiler is provided, the capacity of each unit may be reduced in accordance with acceptable engineering standards.

**H 26.50 Incineration.** An incinerator shall be provided where gas or oil fired furnaces are used.

**H 26.51 Auxiliary heat.** An auxiliary source of heat shall be provided in nurseries.

(*Note:* This requirement is necessary to maintain essential nursery temperatures during periods of the spring, summer and fall when the regular heating system may be turned off for the season. For example: additional convectors or unit heaters connected to steam or hot water lines that are in continuous service throughout the year; electric heaters, either radiant panels or circulating types but excluding the open coil types, are satisfactory.)

**H 26.52 Electrical code.** Electrical services, installation and equipment shall be in accordance with the Wisconsin state electrical code.

**H 26.53 National Board of Fire Underwriters—recommendation.** It is recommended that delivery rooms and other hazardous areas be protected in accordance with the recommendations of safe practice for hospital operating rooms as adopted by the National Board of Fire Underwriters.

(*Note:* See pamphlet National Fire Protection Association, no. 56.)

**H 26.54 Delivery room lights.** Delivery rooms shall be provided with special lights for the delivery tables. These lights shall be connected to the emergency lighting system.

**H 26.55 Explosion-proof devices for delivery room.** All switches, fixtures and receptacles in the delivery room or other hazardous areas located at an elevation lower than five feet from the floor shall be approved explosion-proof devices.

**H 26.56 Emergency lighting.** Adequate emergency lighting shall be provided for the delivery room, exits, stairs and patient corridors. The typical motor generator type source of emergency power is recommended.

**H 26.57 Automatic transfer switch.\*** There shall be an automatic transfer switch which will throw the circuits to the emergency service in case of power failure.

**H 26.58 Boiler room; firing controls; iron lung—recommendation.** It is recommended that the boiler room and firing controls and a receptacle for an iron lung be connected to the emergency circuit.

**H 26.59 Testing of emergency lighting equipment.** At least monthly tests shall be carried out to assure that the emergency power and lighting system, including the generator and the automatic switching and starting devices, are in proper working condition.

**H 26.60 Switches in patient rooms—recommendation.** It is recommended that the outlet for general illumination and night-lights be switched at the door in patient rooms and such switches be of an approved mercury or quiet operating type.

**H 26.61 Lighting fixtures.** Lighting fixtures suitable for the space and occupancy shall be furnished. Ceiling lights are not recommended for patient rooms.

**H 26.62 Nurses' call system.** A standard electrical nurses' call system, consisting of bedside switch, corridor signal light, and nurses' station enunciator, shall be provided in all buildings accommodating 15 or more maternity patients.

**H 26.63 Approved hand washing facilities.** Definition: Approved hand washing facilities, lavatories and sinks shall be equipped with special valves that do not require direct hand contact. The provision of wrist-actuated spade-type handles shall be considered the minimum for all fixtures used by doctors and nurses.

**H 26.64 Valve mechanisms—recommendation.** The following valve mechanisms are recommended:

Patient and utility rooms—wrist, elbow, knee or foot.

Nurseries, examination, treatment and labor rooms—knee or foot.

Scrub facilities, formula room—knee.

Suspect nursery, isolation facilities—foot.

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\* Mandatory for new and recommended for existing maternity hospitals and homes.

**H 26.70 Obstetric department.** The obstetric department shall be segregated from other general patient areas and shall not be adjacent to sections of the hospital subject to contamination from infectious or contagious diseases.

(Note: A separate wing or floor used exclusively for obstetrics is recommended.)

**H 26.71 Location of delivery suite.** The delivery suite shall be located in a separate wing, projecting alcove, or at a corridor dead-end to avoid creating a traffic thoroughfare and to exclude other patients or other hospital personnel.

**H 26.72 Delivery room.** Each institution shall maintain at least one room equipped as a delivery room and used exclusively for clean obstetrics.

**H 26.73 Additional delivery room—recommendation.** It is recommended that additional delivery rooms to the ratio of one delivery room for each 20 maternity beds be provided.

**H 26.74 Labor rooms.** A labor room or private room suitable for such use shall be provided in all institutions.

**H 26.75 Labor room location and equipment.** Labor rooms shall be located near the delivery room, afford privacy or adequate screening, and have equipment for such examination and preparation as required by the physicians. Approved type hand washing facilities shall be located in the labor room.

**H 26.76 Toilet for labor-delivery suite.\*** A patient's toilet shall be located in the labor-delivery suite.

**H 26.77 Autoclave service.** Sterilizing service including a pressure autoclave shall be available to the delivery suite.

**H 26.78 Additional facilities for delivery suite.** Additional facilities shall be provided to include scrub-up facilities (preferably in separate room adjacent to delivery room), clean-up room or utility room, and storage for sterile supplies.

**H 26.79 Nursing unit of obstetric department.** (1) In addition to the patients' rooms the following service facilities or approved equivalent shall be provided for each nursing unit of 35 beds or less:

- Adequate toilet facilities for patients and personnel
- Nurses' station
- Utility room
- Dietary facilities if 24-hour kitchen service is not available
- Patients' shower room
- Linen and supply storage
- Janitor's closet

Sterilizing equipment—facilities must be available in or accessible to each nursing unit for the sterilization of nursing and medical supplies or equipment. Approved type facilities are pressure autoclaves, free flowing steam sterilizers and boiling type utensil sterilizers.

\*Mandatory for new and recommended for existing maternity hospitals and homes.



It is recommended that a separate nurses' toilet be provided near the nurses' station on each floor.

(2) Nursing units of more than 35 beds shall have additional service facilities, such as toilet rooms, toilets, shower.

**H 26.80 Patient room area requirements.** The following minimum floor area per bed shall be provided:

- 80 square feet for multiple-patient rooms
- 100 square feet for single patient rooms
- 100 square feet for patient rooms used for "rooming in"

**H 26.81 Bed spacing.** The distance between patient beds shall be at least 3 feet. It is recommended that no patient room have more than 4 beds.

**H 26.82 Bedside signaling.** Means of signaling hospital personnel shall be provided at the bedside of patients.

**H 26.83 Patient room handwashing facilities.\*** Approved type hand washing facilities shall be provided for each patient room.

**H 26.84 Isolation facilities.** Satisfactory isolation facilities shall be provided for all institutions. In hospitals accommodating 20 or more patients, each isolation room shall be provided with a private toilet in addition to the required lavatory. Provision of a separate sub-utility room containing an approved sink and sterilizer is recommended as an adjunct facility for the isolation suite in larger hospitals.

**H 26.85 Separate nursery.** A separate nursery or nurseries for newborn infants shall be maintained in an obstetric division of an institution licensed for 4 or more beds. When "rooming in" is employed, babies may be kept in mothers' rooms.

**H 26.86 Minimum area requirements for bassinets.** A minimum floor area of 24 square feet for each bassinet shall be provided in full-term nurseries. There shall be a minimum of 2 feet between bassinets unless cubicle partitions are provided. A minimum width of 3 feet in an aisle between rows of bassinets shall be provided.

**H 26.87 Capacity of new or remodeled nursery—recommendation.** It is recommended that 12 bassinets be the maximum capacity of all new or remodeled full-term nurseries. Suitable dividing partitions shall be provided for larger nurseries.

**H 26.88 Nursery hand washing facilities.** Approved hand washing facilities shall be provided in each nursery.

**H 26.89 Nursery work area.\*** A separate examination, treatment and work room with an approved sink shall be provided for each nursery or between each two full-term nurseries in institutions licensed for 8 or more bassinets.

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**H 26.90 Suspect nursery.** A suspect nursery or a private room with approved hand washing facilities shall be provided in all institutions for isolation of infants. This nursery shall contain at least 40 square feet per bassinet.

**H 26.91 Formula room.** A suitable, clean, properly equipped and separate area shall be provided for the preparation of infant formulas. Equipment for terminal sterilization and refrigeration of formulas shall be provided.

**H 26.92 Formula room, 8 bassinets—recommendation.** It is recommended that a separate formula room be provided in hospitals licensed for eight or more bassinets.

**H 26.93 Formula room, 16 bassinets.** A separate formula room shall be provided in hospitals licensed for 16 or more bassinets.