

Observe whether each resident selected for a comprehensive or focused review has a means to achieve full visual privacy.

## **F915**

**(Rev. 173, Issued: 11-22-17, Effective: 11-28-17, Implementation: 11-28-17)**

**§483.90(a)(7) Buildings must have an outside window or outside door in every sleeping room, and for any building constructed after July 5, 2016 the sill height must not exceed 36 inches above the floor. Windows in atrium walls are considered outside windows for the purposes of this requirement.**

**§483.90(e)(1)(vi) - Resident Rooms  
Bedrooms must --**

**§483.90(e)(1)(vi) - Have at least one window to the outside; and**

### **GUIDANCE: §483.90(a)(7) and §483.90(e)(1)(vi)**

Every resident/patient sleeping room shall have an outside window. A facility with resident room windows, as defined by K381, or that open to an outside atrium such as a courtyard in accordance with Life Safety Code, can meet this requirement for a window to the outside. Windows facing an interior atrium, skylights, etc., do not meet this requirement.

In addition to conforming to the Life Safety Code, this requirement was included to assist the resident's orientation to day and night, weather, and general awareness of space outside the facility. The facility is required to provide for a "safe, clean, comfortable and homelike environment" by deemphasizing the institutional character of the setting, to the extent possible. Windows are an important aspect in assuring the homelike environment of a facility.

In buildings constructed after July 5, 2016 or for facilities certified after July 5, 2016, the maximum allowable sill height is 36 inches above the floor. The window may be operable.

### **PROBES: §483.90(a)(7) and §483.90(e)(1)(vi)**

Is there at least one window to the outside?

If the building was constructed or certified as a provider after July 5, 2016, confirm the outside window sill is 36 inches or less above the floor.

## **F916**

**(Rev. 173, Issued: 11-22-17, Effective: 11-28-17, Implementation: 11-28-17)**

**§483.90(e)(1)(vii) Have a floor at or above grade level.**

**GUIDANCE: §483.90(e)(1)(vii)**

Additional guidance is available in the National Fire Protection Association's Life Safety Code 101 (NFPA 101, 2012 ed.), 18/19.2.5.1, which is Tag K254 of the Life Safety Code Survey

## **F914**

**(Rev. 173, Issued: 11-22-17, Effective: 11-28-17, Implementation: 11-28-17)**

**§483.90(e)(1)(iv) Be designed or equipped to assure full visual privacy for each resident;**

**§483.90(e)(1)(v) In facilities initially certified after March 31, 1992, except in private rooms, each bed must have ceiling suspended curtains, which extend around the bed to provide total visual privacy in combination with adjacent walls and curtains.**

### **GUIDANCE: §483.90(e)(1)(iv) and (e)(1)(v)**

“**Full visual privacy**” means that residents have a means of completely withdrawing from public view, without staff assistance, while occupying their bed (e.g., curtain, moveable screens, private room).

The guidelines do not intend to limit the provisions of privacy to solely one or more curtains, movable screens or a private room. Facility operators are free to use other means to provide full visual privacy, with those means varying according to the needs and requests of residents. However, the requirement explicitly states that bedrooms must “be designed or equipped to assure full visual privacy for each resident.” For example, a resident with a bed by the window cannot be required to remain out of his or her room while his/her roommate is having a dressing change. Room design or equipment must provide privacy.

The term “**initially certified**” is defined as all newly certified nursing facilities (NFs) or SNFs as well as NFs and SNFs which re-enter the Medicare or Medicaid programs, whether they voluntarily or involuntarily left the program after March 31, 1992.

It is not necessary for the bed to be accessible from both sides when the privacy curtain is pulled.

Additional guidance is available in the National Fire Protection Association's Life Safety Code 101 (NFPA 101, 2012 ed.), 18/19.7.5.1, 18/19.3.5.11, which is Tag K751 of the Life Safety Code Survey.

### **PROCEDURES: §483.90(e)(1)(iv) and (e)(1)(v)**

There are no provisions for physician statements to be used as a basis for variance of the requirements for full visual privacy.

### **PROBES: §483.90(e)(1)(iv) and (e)(1)(v)**