
HOSPITAL DESIGN AND INFECTION CONTROL

September 26, 2008

Ontario has developed leading edge guidelines for the construction of new hospitals to support the delivery of high quality health care services, and to improve their ability to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

These guidelines have been developed with input from national and international experts.

The guidelines are part of a new set of standards the province has developed to improve the efficiency of the planning process, create greater consistency for high quality health care, and prevent the spread of infectious diseases in hospital settings. Together, they are called GOS (Generic Output Specifications).

These new standards (GOS) will ensure that new hospitals in Ontario are better prepared to stop the spread of infectious diseases. They will have more square footage to accommodate separate entrances and exits for staff and visitors, and new configurations for clinical spaces so that contamination of hospital equipment is less likely to occur.

The consultation process for GOS included multidisciplinary teams consisting of doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, technicians, health care design consultants and maintenance staff looking at international standards and global best practices.

While GOS guidelines were developed based on current and evolving health care benchmarks, the guidelines will be updated regularly to reflect changing clinical practice, technology, and evidence based-practices from around the world.

With respect to infection prevention and control, GOS includes recommendations for hand hygiene stations, airborne precaution rooms, HVAC (Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning), spacing and storage, clean and soiled storage areas, and waste management.

Examples include:

- One hand washing sink inside each in-patient room, adjacent to the entrance. The hand washing sink in the room is in addition to the sink in the washroom;
- Hand washing sinks must be free standing and not inserted into or immediately adjacent to a counter;
- Alcohol-based hand rub bottles shall be mounted on the external wall immediately adjacent to the entrance to every in-patient room;
- Alcohol-based hand rub bottles shall be mounted adjacent to the bedside in all situations.

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