Ambulatory Care vs. Inpatient Care

ASHE 40th Annual Conference and Technical Exhibit
July 14-16, 2003
San Antonio, TX

Michael A. Crowley P.E.
Vice President / Engineering Manager
Rolf Jensen & Associates
Houston, TX
What we really need to know? What to Apply?

- Business Use (Offices)
- Ambulatory Care Use
- Health Care Use
Outline

- CMS Issues
  - New Rules
- The Confusion of what applies
  - Construction
  - Exiting
  - Fire Protection Systems
- NFPA 99
Industry Terms vs Code Terms

- Walk in Clinic vs Ambulatory Care
- Inpatient or Outpatient vs patient
- Ambulatory vs Ambulatory Care
- Ambulatory Surgical Care Center vs Ambulatory Care Facility
CMS Classifies Space

CMS has many programs for care however the Code requirements are all based on NFPA 101. Some programs include:

- Ambulatory Surgical Care Center
- Long Term Acute Care
- Skilled Care Nursing
- Renal Centers

As of September 11, 2003 the new K tag forms will be used for facility assessments.
CMS New Rules

- For CMS Defined Ambulatory Surgery Centers, Ambulatory Care requirements are required for ONE ( 1 ) SINGLE patient rendered incapable of self preservation.

- Emergency Egress Lighting
  - Provide 1 ½ hour of power to the lights by March 13, 2006. This may require replacement of Battery pack units.
Remove all Roller Latches by March 13, 2006.
 Definition – Health Care Occupancy

3.3.134.7* Occupancy, Health Care.

An occupancy used for purposes of medical or other treatment or care of four or more persons where such occupants are mostly incapable of self-preservation due to age, physical or mental disability, or because of security measures not under the occupants’ control.
Definition – Health Care Occupancy Continued

Health care facilities regulated by chapters 18 and 19 provide sleeping accommodations for their occupants and are occupied by persons who are mostly incapable of self-preservation because of age, because of physical or mental disability, or because of security measures not under the occupants’ control.
Definition – Health Care Occupancy Continued

Facilities that do not provide housing on a 24-hour basis for their occupants shall be classified as other occupancies and shall be covered by other chapters of this Code.
Health Care Requirements

- NFPA 101 requirements are located in:
  - Chapters 18 & 19
Health Care Examples

- Hospitals
- Long Term Care Facilities
- Nursing Homes
- Psychiatric Hospitals
Definition – Ambulatory Care

3.3.134.1 Occupancy, Ambulatory Health Care.

A building or portion thereof used to provide services or treatment simultaneously to four or more patients that (1) provides, on an outpatient basis, treatment for patients that renders the patients incapable of taking action for self-preservation under emergency conditions without the assistance of others; or (2) provides, on an outpatient basis, anesthesia that renders the patients incapable of taking action for self-preservation under emergency conditions without the assistance of others.
Ambulatory Care Requirements

NFPA 101 requirements are located in:

- Chapters 21 & 21
- Chapters 38 & 39 when nothing is in Chapters 20 & 21.
- When there is a conflict between the Ambulatory Care and Business the most stringent will be followed
When is a facility Ambulatory Care?

- Less than 24 hour stay
- Renders 4 or more patients incapable of self preservation at the same time.
- Primary intent to provide outpatient services (inpatients on occasions)
- Separated from Health Care occupancy by 2 hour fire rated construction
- Separated from other occupancies by 1 hour fire rated construction.
Examples - Ambulatory Care

- Ambulatory Surgical Center
  - 2 OR’s
  - 4 Pre op beds
  - 4 Recovery

- Dental Clinic for oral surgery
  - 4 Chairs capable of anesthetizing patients

- Reconstructive Surgery Suite
  - 1 procedure room
  - 5 recovery areas
Definitions – Business Occupancy

3.3.134.3 * Occupancy, Business.
An occupancy used for account and record keeping or the transaction of business other than mercantile.
A.3.3.134.3 Occupancy, Business.

Business occupancies include the following:
(1) Air traffic control towers (ATCTs)
(2) City halls
(3) College and university instructional buildings, classrooms under 50 persons, and instructional laboratories
(4) Courthouses
(5) Dentists’ offices
(6) Doctors’ offices
(7) General offices
(8) Outpatient clinics, ambulatory
(9) Town halls
Business Occupancy

Birthing centers occupied by fewer than four patients, not including infants, at any one time; not providing sleeping facilities for four or more occupants; and not providing treatment procedures that render four or more patients, not including infants, incapable of self-preservation at any one time should be classified as business occupancies. For birth centers occupied by patients not meeting these parameters, see Chapters 18, 19, 20 or 21 as appropriate.
What’s left is usually Business Occupancy

- Doctor offices
- Small urgent care clinics
- Birthing Centers (Less than 4 Mothers)
- Renal Centers
- Addiction Treatment Centers (No overnight Stays)
- Eye Clinics
Construction –– NFPA 101

Ambulatory Care
- One story – any type of construction
- Two or more stories
  Type I(443), Type I(332), Type II(222),
  Type II(111), Type III(211), Type IV(2HH),
  or Type V(111) construction.
- If Sprinklers Type II, III
  & V(000) is allowed

Business
- No minimum required construction (See your local Building Code)
### Table 18.1.6.2 Construction Type Limitations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Construction Type</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4 or More</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I(443)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I(332)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II(222)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II(111)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>NP</td>
<td>NP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II(000)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>NP</td>
<td>NP</td>
<td>NP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III(211)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>NP</td>
<td>NP</td>
<td>NP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III(200)</td>
<td>NP</td>
<td>NP</td>
<td>NP</td>
<td>NP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV(2HH)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>NP</td>
<td>NP</td>
<td>NP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V(111)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>NP</td>
<td>NP</td>
<td>NP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V(000)</td>
<td>NP</td>
<td>NP</td>
<td>NP</td>
<td>NP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**X:** Permitted type of construction.

**NP:** Not permitted.
Construction - Separations

**Ambulatory Care**
- 1 hour to other 2 hours to Health Care
- occupancies
- Smoke Barrier required over 5000 sq feet or 10,000 sq ft if sprinklered
- 1 hour corridor, non rated if sprinklered
- High hazard areas 1 hour and sprinklers
- Same Business Hazardous Areas

**Business**
- 1 hour corridor, non rated if sprinklered
- High hazard areas 1 hour and sprinklers
- Hazardous Areas 1 hour or sprinklers (general storage, boiler or furnace rooms, and maintenance shops that include woodworking and painting areas)
Construction Separations

Health Care

- 2 hours separation to all other occupancies
- Smoke Barrier required
- 1 hour corridor in non sprinklered existing Health Care, non rated if sprinklered
- Hazardous Areas 1 hour and sprinklers
Exiting – Travel Distance

Ambulatory Care
- 100 feet from any room door as an exit access to an exit
- 150 feet from any point in a room to the exit
- Maximum travel distance is increased 50 feet in sprinklered buildings

Business
- 200 feet
- 300 feet if building is sprinklered

Health Care
Same as Ambulatory Care with limits with in Suites
Exiting – Dead Ends

- **Ambulatory Care**
  - Dead ends
    - 20 feet
    - 50 feet if building is sprinklered
  - Common Path
    - 75 feet
    - 100 feet if sprinklered
  - Two exits required when room exceeds 2500 sq feet

- **Business**
  - Dead ends
    - 20 feet
    - 50 feet if building is sprinklered
  - Common Path
    - 75 feet
    - 100 feet if sprinklered

Health Care – 30 feet
Dead end
Fire Protection Systems

Ambulatory Care
- Fire Alarm system required
- Portable Fire Extinguisher required
- Automatic sprinklers are optional

Business
- Fire Alarm System required if over 300 persons or more than 2 stories
- Portable Fire Extinguisher required
- Automatic sprinklers are optional
Health Care

- Fire Alarm system required
- Portable Fire Extinguisher required
- Automatic sprinklers required for new construction. Existing conditions can remain. Most construction will trigger sprinkler installation.
NFPA 99

- Medical Gases requirements are based on the procedures not the Occupancy Type.
- Electrical system requirements are based on the procedures not the Occupancy Type. Where general anesthesia or life-support equipment is used an essential electrical system per NFPA 99 is required.
Questions?