



## Formal Interpretations

*Guidelines for Design and Construction of Residential Health, Care, and Support Facilities, 2014 edition*

Decisions published here were rendered after a multi-person panel of Health Guidelines Revision Committee (HGRC) members reviewed the request and consensus was achieved. These decisions are considered formal interpretations of the HGRC, but they are not binding for those states that reference the *Guidelines*. Rather, they are advisory in nature and are intended to help the user and the adopting authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) maximize the value of the *Guidelines*.

Further comments from members of the Interpretations Committee have been added to some of the formal interpretations. These comments are not to be considered as part of the formal interpretation but rather as explanatory information offered to help those who use the *Guidelines*.

Formal interpretations are rendered on the text of the requested edition of the *Guidelines*. However, any interpretation issued shall apply to all editions in which the text is identical, except when deemed inappropriate by the HGRC.

**In all cases, it is important to remember that the ultimate interpretation of information contained in the *Guidelines* is the responsibility of the authority having jurisdiction.**

The procedure for developing formal interpretations is handled by the Facility Guidelines Institute. Please visit the FGI website at [www.fgiguideines.org/interpretations](http://www.fgiguideines.org/interpretations) to read the “Rules for Requesting a Formal Interpretation” before submitting a request. Also on the FGI website is an electronic form for requesting a formal interpretation.

*This document has been downloaded from the FGI website at the address just above. Interpretations are compiled continuously, and this summary document is periodically updated.*

---

### REQUEST

*Guidelines edition:* **2014 Residential**

*Paragraph references:* **4.2-2.2.2.7 and 4.2-4.2.3**

**Question:** We found some inconsistent language in the 2014 FGI Residential *Guidelines*:

- Section 4.2-2.2.2.7 (Resident bathroom) states in paragraph (1) that “the bathroom shall contain the following: ... (e) Shower.” Paragraph (e) then points to Section 2.5-2.3.3.2 (Showers) for the shower requirements.
- In Section 4.2-4.2.3 (Central Bathing Rooms or Areas), which contains requirements for an optional central bathing area, Section 4.2.3.2 (1) states, “One bathtub or shower shall be provided for each eight residents, plus each fraction of eight, not otherwise served by showers in resident rooms.”

If showers in each resident bathroom are a requirement, why is there a requirement for one shower for each eight residents “not otherwise served by showers in resident rooms” when an optional central bathing room or area is provided?

**Response:** The language as it reads in the published 2014 Residential *Guidelines* appears to be the result of an oversight on the part of the 2014 Health Guidelines Revision Committee (HGRC). In

developing the assisted living chapter, the language in this section was taken from the chapter on nursing homes and should have been adjusted for inclusion in the assisted living chapter. The changes shown in the 2014 text reflect the intent of the 2014 HGRC and have been published as an erratum.

#### 4.2-4.2.3 Central Bathing Rooms or Area

If central bathing rooms or area are provided, the requirements in this section shall be met.

**\*4.2-4.2.3.1 Location.** Central bathing rooms or areas shall be located on each floor with resident sleeping areas.

**A4.2-4.2.3 Resident privacy.** Consideration should be given to privacy when locating entrances to bathing rooms.

**4.2-4.2.3.2 Number.** ~~(1) One bathtub or shower shall be provided for each eight residents, plus each fraction of eight, not otherwise served by showers in resident rooms. (2) At least one central bathtub or shower shall be provided based on the needs of the care population, for resident use when required in the functional program.~~

**4.2-4.2.3.3 Space requirements.** Bathing fixtures shall be located in individual rooms or enclosures that provide the following:

- (1) Space for private use of the bathing fixture
- (2) Space for drying and dressing
- (3) Access to a grooming location with a sink, mirror, and counter or shelf

**4.2-4.2.3.4 Toilet.** A toilet shall be provided in or directly accessible to each resident bathing facility without requiring entry into the general corridor.

**4.2-4.2.3.5 Shower.** Where a shower is included in the bathing room or area, sSee Section 2.5-2.3.3.2 (Showers) for requirements.