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New Guidelines for Design and Construction of Hospitals

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The latest revision of healthcare design and construction guidelines became available in mid-April. The Guideline is referenced by more than 40 states, JCAHO for licensure or accreditation purposes, and the federal government for regulating HUD loan-guarantee programs and Department of Health and Human Services medical facilities. The 2001 edition of the *Guidelines for Design* and Construction of Hospital and Health Care Facilities was published by the American Institute of Architects and the Facilities Guideline Institute, with assistance from the US Dept of Health and Human Services. The updated *Guidelines* are the result of a consensus process, involving the review of over 1,500 proposed changes by architectural, engineering, clinical, and administrative experts from the public and private healthcare sectors.

Infection control aspects of construction were given particular consideration during the review of changes that affect minimum engineering design and construction needs for all clinical and support areas of hospitals, nursing homes, freestanding psychiatric facilities, outpatient and rehabilitation facilities, and adult day-care and assisted living facilities. For example, the *Guidelines* now require a documented "infection control risk assessment" process before the start of construction or major renovation projects.

One new service offered by the book is a process for submitting requests for formal interpretations of the *Guidelines*. Requests for interpretations can be sent to the Facilities Guidelines Institute, 1919 McKinney Ave, Dallas, TX 75201, or may be e-mailed to fgiinc@bigplanet.com. The 2001 *Guidelines* are available from AIA Bookstore at 202-626-7541 or 800-242-3837 for \$75 plus shipping and handling.