

No matter what size your hospital is, if it's old or if it's brand new, there is never enough space. A department needs a larger storage area. Another manager needs an office. You have more patients than rooms. (Though the last one can be a good problem to have!) Suites may be the answer to some of your troubles.

Corridor clutter is frequently cited at facilities by Joint Commission under LS.02.01.20—Means of Egress. The modern hospital frequently utilizes large, specialized equipment and staff wants to have it readily available. With space at a premium, suites may provide some relief.

Circulating spaces within the suite are NOT corridors. Limited storage is permitted in the hallways. The circulating spaces themselves can have a reduced width and there is a greater allowance for projections. Rooms and spaces within suites are not required to have doors. If door are present, they do not have to have positive latching hardware.

*Specific Suite Requirements*

Suite Type	LSC Edition	Maximum Area (sqft)	Travel Distance to Exit Access (ft)	Number of Exits
Patient Sleeping	2000	5,000	Not addressed	≤1,000 sqft = 1 exit permitted >1,000 sqft – 2 exits required
	2012	7,500/10,000*	100	≤1,000 sqft = 1 exit permitted >1,000 sqft – 2 exits required**
Patient Non-Sleeping	2000	10,000	One intervening room – 100 Two intervening rooms – 50	≤2,500 sqft = 1 exit permitted >2,500 sqft – 2 exits required
	2012	10,000	100	≤2,500 sqft = 1 exit permitted >2,500 sqft – 2 exits required**
Non-Patient Care	2000	Not addressed	Not addressed	Not addressed
	2012	Not addressed	Requirements based on primary use and occupancy of space.	Requirements based on primary use and occupancy of space.

\*10,000 sqft permitted with complete smoke detection and direct visual supervision.

\*\*Requires one means of egress to a corridor. Expressly permits second means of egress to be into an adjacent suite provided suite separation meets smoke resistive requirements.

If you have any further questions on suites or any other fire and life safety issues, please contact us at 410-750-2246.