



Healthcare Facility Accessibility Checklist

Too many healthcare facilities and clinics lack total architectural and programmatic accessibility for patients with mobility concerns, including disabled, elderly and obese patients. By providing barrier-free facilities and accessible healthcare environments that work for *all* patients, healthcare providers improve the quality of patient care as well as the quality of their patients' lives. Full accessibility also greatly improves patient safety and patient outcomes, as well as productivity and profitability for the medical practice. Some areas to keep in mind when assessing whether your facility is accessible include:

The Parking Lot and Building Entrance – designated parking spaces for those with handicap designations that are fully accessible with easy access to the building. There should be ramps in the parking lot to access walkways and ramps for level building entrances.

Signs – In addition to the already required ADA accessible signage, all public, commercial and private parking lots should have a “Van Accessible” sign. One of every eight spaces is should have an eight-foot aisle to accommodate van users.

Doorways and Hallways – doorways and hallways that are wide enough to allow for access and easy maneuvering by those in wheelchairs or mobility devices. Handrails can also provide assistance for the mobility impaired in hallways and ramped areas.

Waiting Areas and Reception Desk Counters – waiting areas should allow space for easy maneuvering of those in wheelchairs or who use other mobility devices, and reception counters should be accessible for those in wheelchairs.

Drinking Fountains and Water Coolers – drinking fountains should be at wheelchair height and easily accessible to the mobility impaired.

Restrooms – accessible toilet and dressing rooms large enough for a person using a wheelchair to navigate

Examination Rooms – sufficient turning radius should be provided in the layout of the room for those using wheelchairs or other mobility devices. Exam rooms should be outfitted with equipment that is barrier-free and can accommodate people of all physiques and those who use mobility devices. This includes Barrier-Free® adjustable height exam tables and weight scales, diagnostic equipment, x-ray and mammography machines. Exercise, rehabilitation and fitness equipment should also be accessible.

Elevators – Accessible elevators should be on an accessible route.

Patient Materials and Appointment Procedures – all patient materials should be available in accessible formats for blind or visually impaired patients, and the facility should have inclusive appointment policies and procedures that provide for all types of physical and communication needs. Another consideration is the provision for the presence of sign language interpreters to enable full communication with deaf patients who use sign language

Staff – the staff at the facility should be trained to understand and respond with respect to people with different types of disabilities and those who are mobility impaired. Medical staff should be properly trained on how to safely assist or maneuver patients with disabilities or those who are mobility impaired.