Do states adopt FGI Guidelines into building code?

THE DIRECT ANSWER

Yes — 43 states have adopted the FGI Guidelines (now FGI Codes) into their regulatory frameworks for healthcare facility construction, typically by reference : the state's health facility licensing regulations incorporate a specific FGI edition, making its minimum requirements enforceable as code for new construction and major renovations. This is the primary way FGI — a voluntary consensus standard — becomes law.

HOW ADOPTION WORKS

- Adoption by reference. The state regulation names the FGI document and edition year (e.g., "the 2022 edition of the FGI Guidelines for Design and Construction of Hospitals"). Everything in that edition becomes enforceable.
- With amendments. Some states adopt FGI with state-specific modifications — additions, deletions, or substitutions. The adopted-plus-amended version is what the plan reviewer enforces.
- Through the health department, not the building code. FGI adoption usually lives in health facility licensing regulations (department of health), running parallel to the state's building code (IBC-based). A project must satisfy both — they don't override each other.
- On the state's timeline. States adopt new FGI editions through their own rulemaking, often years after FGI publishes. The 2026 Codes will phase into state regulations gradually.

BUILDING CODE VS. HEALTH FACILITY REGULATIONS

- This distinction matters: the building code (IBC and its referenced standards) governs structural, fire, and general life safety. The health facility regulations incorporating FGI govern healthcare-specific planning and design — room sizes, clearances, clinical adjacencies, handwashing, ventilation via ASHRAE 170.

FIELD QUESTION

How many states adopt the FGI Guidelines?

43 states have adopted FGI documents for regulating healthcare facility new construction and major renovations.

From Healthcare Facility Hub - free, like everything on the site. The full article is at the link below.

Caution: codes, editions, and targets vary by facility and authority having jurisdiction (AHJ). Figures marked as common practice are facility targets, not code requirements. Confirm against your AHJ and the current code text before acting.