How does FGI address hand hygiene station placement?

THE DIRECT ANSWER

FGI requires a handwashing station in the patient room — in addition to the sink in the toilet room — a requirement in place since the 2001 edition. The intent is positional: the station goes near the room entrance so healthcare personnel have unobstructed access on the way in, making hand hygiene the path of least resistance. The 2022 Guidelines further specify sink size, depth, and proximity to patient care areas and entrances, alongside accessible alcohol-based hand rub dispensers throughout the facility.

THE PLACEMENT LOGIC

- At the entrance, not the back wall. Staff should pass the sink entering the room — visible placement also lets patients see hand hygiene happen, which research links to better compliance.
- Unobstructed access. No equipment, furniture, or casework blocking the approach. A sink behind the door swing might as well not exist.
- Separate from the toilet room sink. The toilet room fixture serves a different purpose; FGI wants a dedicated clinical handwashing station in the room itself.
- ABHR as complement, not substitute. Alcohol-based hand rub dispensers go at entries and throughout — but they supplement the sink, they don't replace the FGI sink requirement.

EXAM AND TREATMENT ROOMS

- Outpatient exam rooms must contain a handwashing station as part of the room's required contents. Procedure and treatment rooms carry the same expectation, scaled to the room's function.

FIELD QUESTION

Does FGI require a sink in every patient room?

Yes — a handwashing station in the patient room, in addition to the toilet room sink, required since the 2001 edition.

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.