Green Building Certification for Healthcare: LEED, Green Globes, and Healthy Building Standards

THE DIRECT ANSWER

Green building certification gives healthcare facility managers third-party proof that design and operations meet defined targets for energy, water, materials, and indoor environmental quality—often alongside occupant health programs such as WELL or Fitwel. In 2026, most U.S. teams still choose among LEED (including healthcare-specific BD+C paths), Green Globes (ANSI protocols for new construction and existing buildings), and health-focused standards administered by IWBI and the Center for Active Design.

PROGRAM LANDSCAPE IN 2026

- Certification is never a substitute for code, licensure, or accreditation—but it can structure conversations between owners, designers, and operators around measurable outcomes.

COMMON PATHWAYS

- LEED (U.S. Green Building Council): Broad environmental rating across site, water, energy, materials, indoor environmental quality, and innovation. LEED v5 launched in 2025 and is open for BD+C, ID+C, and O+M registrations alongside LEED v4.1 and v4.
- Green Globes (Green Building Initiative): Self-assessment with third-party verification; current ANSI editions include Green Globes for New Construction 2024 and Green Globes for Existing Buildings (2023 series, with ongoing ANSI maintenance including 2025 updates).
- WELL Building Standard v2 (International WELL Building Institute): Performance standard centered on occupant health across ten concepts (Air, Water, Nourishment, Light, Movement, Thermal Comfort, Sound, Materials, Mind, Community), maintained through periodic addenda.
- Fitwel v3 (Center for Active Design): Evidence-based strategies for health-promoting buildings; v3 replaced new v2.1 registrations after July 2024, with v2.1 projects still able to finish under prior registration rules.
- BREEAM : Used by some international health systems; less common for typical U.S. acute care but appears in global portfolio policies.

FIELD QUESTION

Where does this come from?

This sheet distills the full Healthcare Facility Hub article linked below, which carries the complete text, references, and sourcing.

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.