Corridor Width Requirements in Healthcare Under NFPA 101

THE DIRECT ANSWER

NFPA 101 requires corridors in new healthcare occupancies to be at least 8 feet (96 inches) in clear, unobstructed width — wide enough to move patients on beds and transport equipment during an emergency. Existing healthcare occupancies require 6 feet minimum. Corridors in adjunct areas not used for housing, treating, or moving inpatients may be as narrow as 44 inches .

THE NUMBERS

- New healthcare occupancy: 8 ft clear and unobstructed.
- Existing healthcare occupancy: 6 ft minimum.
- Adjunct areas (not for inpatient housing/treatment/use): 44 in. minimum.

WHAT'S ALLOWED IN THE CORRIDOR

- The 8-foot corridor isn't empty space — the code permits projections and equipment within limits: noncontinuous projections up to 6 inches from the wall (with conditions), wheeled equipment and carts provided they don't reduce clear width below 5 feet (60 in.) with.

FIELD QUESTION

How wide must hospital corridors be?

8 feet clear in new healthcare occupancies; 6 feet minimum in existing; 44 inches in adjunct areas not used for inpatients.

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.